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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Countries Hosting Refugees Hold 43d Meeting

JN0208090089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Developments in the Palestinian problem, threats to the holy places in occupied Jerusalem and means of supporting the ongoing intifadah [uprising] are the central themes on the agenda of a seven-day meeting of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees which opened in Amman Tuesday.

Jordan's representative at the meeting, Dr Ahmad Qatanani, said that in light of Jordan's strong attachment to Palestine and its people and the historic and geographical and national considerations, Jordan would continue to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people and support their steadfastness and their just struggle for freedom.

Qatanani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, told the meeting that Jordan's decision a year ago to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank was part of an ongoing process in supporting the Palestinian stand. At the same time, Jordan has never ceased to work for a just solution to the problem through implementation of U.N. resolutions and in cooperation with all concerned parties and the United Nations secretary general through an international peace conference, Qatanani said.

The convening of the meeting, the 43rd of its kind, comes amid very sensitive circumstances in the whole Middle East area and while the intifadah is entering its 20th month, Qatanani noted.

He said the past 20 months witnessed an escalation of Israel's atrocities represented in killing Palestinians, demolishing Arab homes, expulsion of Palestinian youths, imposition of curfews and mass arrests, coupled with economic measures that rendered the oppressed people in a very pitiable condition.

The meeting, Qatanani said, will address a host of topics related to the Palestinians and their conditions together with the subjects related to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides for the education of Palestinian refugee children.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Muhammad al-Farra described Jordan's continued assistance to the Palestinian people as directed towards alleviating their sufferings and enhancing their steadfastness. Al-Farra also commended Jordan's decisions concerning the Palestine problems and said that they could only back the oppressed people's struggle for freedom and just peace.

The secret of the intifadah's success, Al-Farra said, is its continuation and, therefore, Arab and international support for the Palestinians is urgently required.

Al-Farra noted that the Amman meeting would address a number of issues pertaining to the Palestinians and their present conditions, Israel's settlement policies, the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Arab areas under occupation and ways to continue the flow of all kinds of assistance to the oppressed people.

According to Al-Farra, the meeting will review a report by the UNRWA commissioner general to the United Nations on the agency's operations in the Arab world.

Muhammad Jum'ah, director of Palestinian affairs at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, addressed the session referring to Egypt's continued involvement in Palestinian affairs despite its absence from previous meetings.

ACC Inaugurates Arabsat Ground Station

JN0708134889 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 7, INA—Communications and transport ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) inaugurated here today Iraq's aerospace telecommunications ground station Arabsat.

Speaking at the ceremony, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah said the station would facilitate communications with the ACC member states, Arab countries and outer world using various amplitudes and channels to air TV and broadcasting programs, and provide swift aerospace communications.

Iraq, Jordan, Egypt Sign Transportation Accord

JN0808201489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt have signed an agreement to establish a closed [mughlaq] land transport line for passengers between Baghdad and Cairo.

The agreement provides for the operation of a closed land line to carry passengers from Baghdad and Cairo and vice versa, using one coach with an average of one trip daily, through the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi'. The line will be operated by the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, which is owned by the three countries. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reportage on 5th Fatah General Congress

Fatah Movement's Programs

LD0808192689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 Aug (SPA)—The Palestinian liberation movement Fatah has affirmed that there will be no peace, no security, and no stability in the Middle East without recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and national independence and the proclamation of its own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The movement's program, published in Tunis today and reported by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, asserts that the Palestinian question is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and stresses firm adherence to the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The movement also reiterates its affirmation that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, stressing the historic importance of the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council at its 19th session, and particularly the document on independence.

On the other hand, the political program underlines that there will be further intensification and escalation of armed action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Israeli occupation of Palestine, calling for the strengthening of national unity at various political and military levels, and for the escalating of the popular intifadah [uprising] which is aimed at ending the Israeli Zionist occupation.

Fatah's political program says that the movement rejects and resists the program for self-rule and other elimination-seeking schemes aimed at entrenching the Zionist settler occupation, stresses the rejection of the Shamir plan on elections, given that any elections must take place in a climate of freedom under UN supervision, after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, and that elections must be a link in an integrated plan for a definitive solution.

The political program also underlines the need to offer all forms of support to the Palestinian people in order to affirm resistance in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy, pointing out the achievements of the Intifadah and the steadfastness of the camps in Lebanon. It calls for continuing the dialogue with the forces supporting the rights of the Palestinian people, rejecting occupation, and recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The political program also points to the decision taken by the conference to set up an ad hoc committee within the Revolutionary Council whose objective will be to tackle the Zionist immigration, culturally, politically, and through information.

At the Arab level, the conference saluted the solidarity of the Arab masses with the Palestinian revolution and the blessed intifadah, expressing appreciation for the resolutions at the Arab summit meetings concerning the intifadah and supporting the intifadah, and particularly the Algiers and Casablanca summits.

The conference stressed the need to strengthen relations with the parties and national forces in the Arab homeland, and to work for enlisting support and popular assistance to intifadah and the PLO.

The political program of Fatah's fifth conference expresses pride in and appreciation for the fraternal Lebanese people and stresses the importance of the struggle-related and fraternal relations between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in order to continue the confrontation of the Zionist invasion, and in order to liberate the Lebanese and Palestinian lands from the Israeli Zionist occupation.

The conference affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will remain a pillar for the Lebanese people in their struggle to achieve national unity, preserve independence and territorial integrity, and repel the Israeli occupation. The conference also stressed the special and distinguished relations linking the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and the need to promote them in accordance with the national interests of the two fraternal peoples, pointing out that any future relationship with Jordan must be based on a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine.

Fatah has also expressed its support for an efficient international conference to bring about peace in the Middle East, which must be convened on the basis of international legitimacy under UN patronage.

The fifth general conference of the Fatah Movement also affirmed its adherence to the principles and charter of the United Nations and its resolutions that have consecrated the national, inalienable, and nonnegotiable rights of the Palestinian people, and the right of all oppressed peoples under occupation to use all forms of struggle for their liberation and national independence.

The conference urged the United States to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and setting up their own independent state, to abandon the policy of bias in favor of Israel, and to stop its unlimited assistance to Israel.

The conference appreciated the positions of support adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement member countries for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

The conference also greeted the friendly countries that have hastened to recognize the state of Palestine and to establish diplomatic relations with it, pointing out the positions of the socialist states. The conference also praised the change that has occured in the public opinion of West Europe, Japan, Canada, and Australia in favor of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The fifth conference of the Fatah Movement is expected to conclude its work in Tunis this evening. It began last Thursday [3 August], discussing a range of political, social, struggle-related, and organizational issues concerning the Fatah Palestinian Liberation Movement, the biggest Palestinian faction constituting the PLO. It is also expected that later today will see the election of the 21 members of the Central Committee and the members of the movement's Revolutionary Council. The conference has unanimously elected 'Arafat as chairman of Fatah.

Congress Reelects 'Arafat Chairman

LD0808135989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Since last Thursday [3 August], Tunisia has been witnessing a distinguished event, and by that we mean the holding of the fifth general congress of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah. This will be concluded this evening.

The WAFA news agency has praised the success of the Fatah congress. The fifth congress of the Fatah Movement unanimously elected at dawn today Yasir 'Arafat as chairman of the Central Committee of this movement, which is regarded as the largest of the Palestinian liberation organizations. WAFA stressed that with his election, Yasir 'Arafat will be empowered to summon the Fatah Central Committee, chair its proceedings, and manage its activities. [passage omitted]

TAP has learned from a Palestinian source close to the congress that the number of members of the Central Committee will be increased to 22, of whom 18 will be appointed today by the congress, while the new Central Committee, whose structure will be announced today, will appoint the remaining 3 members.

This afternoon the congress will turn to the new structure of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement, which is the liaison body between the Central Committee and the congress, and will appoint its members. Following that, it will elect 18 members of the Central Committee.

In addition to the seats, of which two-thirds will be filled by a majority of two-thirds in the new Central Committee [as heard] the conferees have unanimously decided, according to the same source, to appoint some personages from the occupied territories to the Central Committee. [passage omitted]

WAFA stressed that the congress will conclude its proceedings today in total success and in agreement on all political, organizational, military, security, and social issues. WAFA added that the fifth general congress adopted the political resolutions issued by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its extradordinary session in Algiers. It also urged political movement on the basis of these resolutions with the proviso that Fatah political decisions should not deviate from the resolutions of the PNC, which were masterminded by Fatah.

The political statement clearly addressed all political issues, including dialogue with progressive Israeli forces and other forces which believe that recognition of the firm rights of the Palestinian people is an issue that cannot be ignored if a just and comprehensive peace is to be achieved in the region.

The political statement also addressed the Shamir plan. WAFA stressed that the congress unanimously decided to reject it because, even prior to the four restrictions which were placed on it by the Likud Party, it is of no use since it is built upon the notion of holding elections under the shadow of occupation and the nonparticipation of all the sons of the Palestinian people.

The Fatah congress also decided that any elections held inside the occupied territories should be democratic and free. This necessitates the withdrawal of Israeli forces of occupation, and the United Nations supervizing such elections in the same way as was decided with regard to Namibia.

Regarding the organizational sphere, in addition to the decision to expand the Central Committee from 15 to 21 members, it has been decided to set up a Political Bureau consisting of a maximum of 11 members. It will be recalled that a member of the Central Committee has to win 40 percent of votes to be able to compete for membership. A member of the Revolutionary Council, on the other hand, needs 30 percent of all votes before being bound by the simple majority [as heard].

'Moderate' Line Triumphs

JN0808145489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] After a turbulent session that continued until 0600 today, the fifth Fatah general congress agreed to increase the number of Central Committee members to 21 from the current 15. Of these, 18 will be elected and the other three appointed by the committee. For the first time in its history, Fatah established a Political Bureau to be elected directly by the Central Committee. This information was received from sources close to the conference. The sources explained that Fatah second in command Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] was one of the leaders who opposed the decision to expand the Central Committee and who asked that the decision be reconsidered, and this is what actually happened throughout last night.

The same sources added that Palestinian leaders of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories will be appointed to the Fatah Central Council, but their names and number will be kept secret so that they will not be subjected to Israeli oppression. The decision was made to emphasize the organic relationship between the intifadah inside the occupied territories and the Palestinian leadership outside.

The congress, in which more than 1200 delegates are taking part, will begin voting this morning to elect members of the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council. On the organizational level, also, it was decided that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and Fatah leader, will be named Fatah general commander. This will replace his current title as the commander in chief of the revolution forces of the movement.

Meanwhile, a leading Palestinian source has said to REUTER that the moderate political line being adopted by Yasir 'Arafat, and which is basically based on two states for two peoples—a Palestinian state beside Israel—has emerged victorious.

He explained that the congress, in light of the Palestine National Council resolutions, will announce that the Palestinians are now more determined to continue the militant march by all available political and military means to liberate their homeland and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In the congress' final resolutions, Fatah will stress its adherence to the convening of the international conference as means for bringing about comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international law. It will also announce the continuation of the dialogue with the Israeli democratic forces that reject occupation, support the national rights of the Palestinian people—especially their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state—and recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories, the Fatah final statement will stress the need for linking the elections to the comprehensive settlement and for these elections to be free and democratic, as demanded earlier by the PLO Executive Committee. We just received a report that Yasir 'Arafat was unanimously elected chairman of the Fatah Central Committee.

Central Committee Elected

LD0908101789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] The Fatah general congress which began in Tunis last Thursday [3 August] elected the Central Committee of the movement at dawn today. Nine new members have entered the movement's Central Committee for the first time, among whom are two military men, Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Jihad and Colonel Nasir Yusuf. The remaining members who have been elected for the first time are: Mrs Intisar al-Wazir 'Umm Jihad, wife of martyr Khalil al-Wazir; Mr Shakir Abu-Nizar, former secretary of the Revolutionary Council; Mr 'Abbas Zaki, director general of the Department of Arab and International Relations of the liberation organization; Mr Abu-'Ala', director general of the Economic Department of the organization; Mr Hakam Bal'awi and Mr Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the ambassadors of Palestine to Tunis and Belgrade respectively; and Mr Abu-Munzir, the deputy ambassador of Palestine to Saudi Arabia.

PFLP Claims Shelling West Bank Settlement

JN0808144889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] announced that a group of its fighters today shelled the settlement of Ma'oz Hayyim near Bet She'an in occupied Palestine from the Jordanian territory. A PFLP statement added that the rockets accurately hit their targets and ambulances were seen evacuating the dead and wounded. The PFLP stressed that all members of the group returned safely to base.

Jibril Congratulates Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN0908114789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has sent the following cable of congratulations to Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of his winning the presidential elections in the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God. If only the people of the book had faith, it were best for them: Among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors. They will do you no harm, barring a trifling annoyance; if they come out to fight you, they will show you their backs, and no help shall they get. [Koranic verses]

Brother President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, may God preserve him, with extreme happiness and great hope we received news of your victory in the presidential elections in the Islamic Republic of Iran and your winning the confidence of the faithful and struggler masses in Islamic Iran. It is a pride to Muslims to see a man like you assume power—a man who believes in God and his prophet and who is the student of Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God have mercy on him—to uphold the word of God and to fight the tyrants; hypocrites; and the enemies of God, his prophet, and the wretched people.

We are fully aware in this age, the age of resisting arrogance and fighting the followers of Satan, that responsibility is an obligation and not an honor. It is continuous struggle, caution, and unlimited sacrifice.

In my own name and on behalf of the PFLP-GC; the stone-throwing children; the strugglers in Palestine; the lovers of Jerusalem; and the oppressed, wretched, and starving people in Jerusalem, which God has blessed, and in all occupied territories of Islam, we extend to you heartfelt and sincere congratulations on winning the confidence of the masses believing in Islam and jihad as the only means to achieve victory over enemies. While grasping your hand firmly and highly appreciating the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in serving Islam and Muslims and your sincere stand supporting the Palestine question through action to unify the faithful, struggler forces, with their strong faith in Palestine as an Islamic homeland, we also highly appreciate the existing relations between our front and the Islamic Republic of Iran and aspire to promote them further in the interests of our peoples and all Muslims.

Finally, we beseech Almighty God to guide your steps on the right course under the leadership of Imam Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. Our faith in God's true promise to aid the believers gives us additional optimism and confidence that we will see the flags of jihad and victory come to Palestine, carried by hands that have faith in struggle against the enemies of God and in martyrdom in jihad as a means of obtaining life and victory and of building the glory and pride of Islam. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC Secretary General

Interviewed by Tehran Paper

PM0108135089 Tehran ETTALA'AT in Persian 16 Jul 89 p 16

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by ETTELA'AT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT] Mr Jibril, what is your view on holding an international conference to end the Middle East crisis? It has become known that you support Syria's policies. Do you also agree with Syria with regard to this conference?

[Jibril] The stance of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] is clear on all political issues. Our views are clear in our written and spoken statements. There has never been a contradictory statement on our part. Our view of the international peace conference is that we completely reject such a conference and feel that such a conference will strengthen the presence of Zionism on Palestinian soil. We reject such a move and we will not give up the armed struggle until we have liberated the whole of Palestine from the hands of the Zionists.

With regard to Syria's agreement on such a conference I must say that our presence on Syrian or Lebanese soil does not mean that we have to agree with all the policies of that country. It is true that we agree with Syria on certain issues, but it is also quite possible for us to disagree with them on some things, and this has happened many times. We agree with the Syrians with regard to resistance against the Zionists and we agree with them with regard to creating a balance of power with the enemy. But perhaps we disagree with the Syrians over their other plans to find a solution to the crisis.

These disagreements have occurred before. One of them followed the October war in 1974 and 1975. We also had a difference of opinion with the Syrians over the war of the camps. Now we have differing views on the peace conference. I must also add that the Syrians themselves and those who agree with this conference know that this conference will never take place, that the U.S. conspiracies have gone beyond the holding of a conference. Other major countries which were in favor of the conference have also lessened their enthusiasm in view of the reactionary policies of 'Arafat and some of the other reactionary regimes. Therefore Syria regards this conference as a means of confronting Israel, not compromising with them. The Syrians have told us that they are a country and they have to give an opinion, that they cannot just remain silent as mere observers. They have said that it is in fact the Israelis who are afraid of this conference, that it is they who are against it.

As a revolutionary organization, we do not accept compromises and half-solutions. We believe that accepting such plans would turn our national culture upside down and would force us to accept another culture.

[ETTELA'AT] You identify the PLO as a compromising organization. Why and how did this organization reach such a low level?

[Jibril] There is no doubt that the PLO did not reach this stage overnight. The political deviation started some 14 years ago in 1974. We admit that we were part of the PLO, even one of its central creators. As a revolutionary organization, we felt that we should stop the PLO's deviation, which started after the 1973 October war. We made a major effort in this direction. Sometimes there was political confrontation, and sometimes by increasing our armed operations against the Zionists, we tried to put pressure on the PLO to stop its deviation. I recall that in 1974 we staged several armed operations inside Palestine, including the (Khalasah) and (Um-al-'Aqareb) operations. We could have encouraged other groups toward such operations by our actions. But unfortunately, the PLO continued its backward trend and continued to ignore ideals up until the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. After that we felt a danger. The PLO's deviation had reached the stage where we felt we could no longer use democratic means to end the deviation....

This is how we separated from them in 1983, because remaining in that organization made us witnesses to lies and made us responsible in the face of the PLO leadership's compromises. So we separated and there was even an armed struggle between us. Since then we have done everything in our power to stand against this leadership to defeat it.

[ETTELA'AT] You have mentioned the backward trend of the PLO from then until now. What do you think are the reasons for this?

[Jibril] Although your question is a short one, its answer will not fit in such a short interview. We can only mention a few of the reasons in passing. First of all, 'Arafat tied the fate of the organization to that of reactionary Arab regimes. This meant that 'Arafat and his whole leadership were at the mercy of the policies of these reactionary regimes. These reactionary regimes are themselves slaves of foreign power plans—those of the United States, Britain and Europe. The reactionary Arab regimes exert pressure and the PLO leadership accepts this pressure and responds positively to the demands of the Arab reactionaries.

The second point that should be mentioned is that the composition of the PLO and Fatah was not really revolutionary. I should put it this way: When our organization and Fatah made up the PLO jointly, we knew them fairly well and had our doubts as to whether or not they would be able to sustain a long-term struggle. This means that from the beginning we knew that they did not have a revolutionary makeup, that they were weak, and that they would not be able to go any further, because that organization was waiting for any opportunity to give in to the reactionary regimes' wishes.

The third point is the blows dealt by Israel to the Palestinian revolution and the conspiracies of some of the reactionary Arab regimes. The PLO became discouraged by these blows and conspiracies and gave up the armed struggle. This is why 'Arafat announced the end of armed struggle a couple of years ago and has hitherto kept to his word. Recently, one of 'Arafat's chief aides, Abu-Mazin, officially announced in Spain that the PLO will never take up weapons again. The journalists present asked him what would happen if the Israelis do not give the PLO anything. Would they take up arms then? He replied: Even if we do not gain anything, we will not take up arms to kill Israelis. This was the comment of someone in the leadership!

Of course, we in the PLFP-GC are proud to have had a hand in the beginning of the revolution, which was through the Galilee operations. We took many prisoners during this operation and it was decided that we could exchange these prisoners with the Israelis. We forced them to free hundreds of our resistance fighters who were in Israeli jails, so they could return to their towns, refugee camps and villages. These freed men were in turn able to play a major role in the next stage of the uprising. We are pround of the fact that we have been able to take armed struggle to its climax and to carry out various operations. These included the glider operations, during which our fighters were able to enter Galilee to destroy the chosen targets. By so doing, we were determined to show our people and the world that we had chosen the path of armed struggle. For this job we chose a military installation in northern Palestine which had a Hebrew name meaning "hero." Through that operation we told the Israelis: You have called them heroes; now we want to engage your heroes in war. This is indeed what happened, and the Zionist troops fled before our fighters and we were able to kill dozens of them and wound dozens more. This operation was like a grand opening for our revolt.

If 'Arafat or other compromising organizations claim to have the affairs of the uprising in hand, they are lying. 'Arafat and the others have no idea about the revolt. The revolution itself has stood up to their disgraceful summit in Amman. This uprising was a crushing response to all of 'Arafat's plans. Of course, when we say 'Arafat, we mean him and all the other Arab reactionary regimes.

It is 20 months now since the start of the revolution and during this time 'Arafat has always tried somehow to control the uprising, to drag it toward his own programs. But it becomes clearer every day that the uprising will compromise neither with 'Arafat nor with any other organization. It belongs to the Palestinian people, who are fighting alone under the control of the Zionist regime, to secure their rights. The recent events in the occupied territories indicate better than anything else that this revolt does not belong to 'Arafat and is not one of his programs. You see that there are bomb explosions in Galilee and in Tel Aviv, which have been under occupation since 1948. 'Arafat calls the peoples of these areas "Arab Israelis," which means he feels that they are not Palestinians. When you see young Palestinians killing Israelis without mercy, you understand that they have long-term plans and are not part of 'Arafat's short-term policy.

The fact that the anti-Israeli program has been stepped up is against 'Arafat's programs. You can see how a young Palestinian goes from Gaza to Tel Aviv to kill four Zionists with a knife. This occured 4 months ago. Does something like this not indicate that operations have been stepped up? Is this part of 'Arafat's programs? Of course not. The Muslim Palestinian who spends the night in the al-Aqsa mosque, gets up the next day and kills three Israelis in the streets of Jerusalem, wounding six others—is this not a major blow to the compromising attitudes of 'Arafat? Or else that other Palestinian who comes from a camp in Gaza, who takes a bus by force and drives in into a valley in a martyrdom-seeking operation—is this included in 'Arafat's plans?

'Arafat is trying to gain control of the people's revolt through the resources and money that the reactionary regimes give him. He sometimes makes them hungry and sometimes tired. Then he officially announces in the press that this is to soften the Israeli blows. In a word, we can say that Arafat is playing a sabotage role in the revolt. He and his cohorts have told the Americans and Israelis clearly that if they do not give them something soon, it is possible that affairs will escape 'Arafat's control. In other words, he is actually warning the Americans and the Israelis.

'Arafat and his group once tried to stop the revolt for a day; they announced their intentions and specified the day. But as we saw, that particular day was more turbulent than any other and the fighting reached its climax. Once he tried to change the method of the people's uprising, which meant that instead of using sticks and stones and Molotov cocktails, they would stage peaceful marches and carry placards, like Europeans and liberals. He even put some people in the streets in this manner but the revolutionary people stoned them and the marchers were forced to drop their placards and run away.

What we mean to say is that the body that is organizing the uprising in the occupied lands is the people themselves. This revolt is a sign and an example of all the demands of the Muslim and nationalist revolutionaries. No one can say what percentage of the revolt he controls. All we can say is that the uprising is a symbol of all the demands of revolutionary Palestinians. 'Arafat only has some mercenaries who are the vestiges of those who supported King Husayn. The Israelis allow them to engage in propaganda and open the way for them to contact journalists. Then they turn around and throw the real revolutionaries in jail or else persecute and harass them.

For example, you speak of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine: Some time ago one of their men, called 'Umar Qasim, died in an Israeli jail. Israel, for the first time in its history, allowed a funeral to be held for the man. It was interesting to note that some members of the Israeli Knesset took part in the funeral. On the other hand, so far some 600 revolutionary Palestinians have been martyred since the start of the uprising. The Israelis did not give permission for a single funeral. Why does it have to be this way? Because the Israelis know that these were the people who did not have a key role in the real struggle, that there are also other compromising organizations with which they have secret contacts. Operations by this organization are more like a propaganda balloon: What value could it have?

Just yesterday one of their delegations at the grave of Camp David met with the Egyptian foreign minister. They announced that they had gone there to reach a compromise solution.

In reality Palestine has been divided into two camps. One side wants to continue the armed struggle and wants to step it up. The Palestinian uprising is one method of armed struggle. This group will never accept a middle way and wants to liberate Palestine. This group on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip say there is no way that talks will be held regarding these lands and that Israel must withdraw from these occupied areas without conditions.

The other group is 'Arafat and his gang, who want to compromise and to hold talks with the Israelis. They have announced many times that they want peace, to recognize Israel, and to have normal relations with it. Even further than that, for 'Arafat to organize a common trade market with the Israelis. To return to the original question, namely: To whom does this revolt belong? The answer is clear. The revolt is a realistic realization of the demands of the revolutionary groups.

[ETTELA'AT] You identify, the best method of struggle as the armed struggle. How long do you intend to continue this struggle?

[Jibril] We know that the battle with the Zionist enemy is not an easy one. I must say that the climax of the aggressive imperialist and colonialist attack on the Arab peoples and the Muslim nation was the creation of the Zionist regime on Palestinian land. We Palestinians want struggle. We also know that we alone will not be able to uproot Zionism from Palestinian land, because it was established there in accordance with plans by world aggression. This is why we believe that the Palestinian people are like the tip of the arrow. The rest of the Arab resources have to be gathered to join hands for the liberation of Palestine. This is what was done against the crusaders in the 10th century. At that time, the crusaders, on the pretext of returning the crucifix, attacked not only Palestine but also Syrian and Egyptian shores. At that time Saladin, who was not even an Arab but a Muslim Kurd, was able to gather the Islamic forces to liberate Jerusalem and to defeat the crusaders.

Therefore, we believe that in order to continue the armed struggle the ground work has to be done to rally the Islamic and Arab forces to confront the imperialists on Palestinian soil. Palestine does not belong to Arabs or Palestinians. God only mentioned two places in the Koran: One is Mecca and the other is Jerusalem. In this holy book God asked us many times to wage holy war, to fight. So this is the duty of all Muslims. We cannot recognize someone as a Muslim unless he takes up arms to fight these Jews; otherwise he is a liar. We must realize that Islam is not just relations between God and an individual, but has social values as well. The United States and the West are trying to limit those values.

The Islam of Saudi Arabia and the Islam of (al-Zahir) is not the real Islam. It is not the Islam that we want. We want a revolutionary Islam, one that will reach Palestine from every corner. We are proud of the fact that Muslims came from every corner to fight in Afghanistan. We say that the fight for Palestine is 1,000 times holier than that in Afghanistan. Since thousands of people came from all over the Islamic world to fight in Afghanistan alongside the mujahidin, millions must come to Palestine to fight to regain it for Islam. The liberation of Palestine is not only a return of Arabs and Palestinians.

Any attempts to separate the Islamic identity from the battle against the Zionists is a huge conspiracy backed by the aggressive forces worldwide. This is why we strongly believe that the conflict between us and the enemy will not be solved except through a fight and their defeat. We must make the Jews realize that they are part of an imperialist plan and have entered the land of Palestine at a time of lax attitudes, they they must go back to wherever they came from. The occupation of Palestine was predicted in religious texts including the Koran, which says: You will go back to the al-Aqsa mosque, which is where you came from. It is clear that as well as the occupation of the crusaders, the occupation of the Zionists was also predicted. It gives the Muslims the hope and the good news that of course there will come a day when they will enter the al-Aqsa mosque for the second time. This is mentioned in the prophet's writings as well: It says that the Jews will occupy Palestine and that soldiers will come from the east to kill the Jews, and the Jews will hide behind trees and stones, and that the stones and the trees will start to talk, saying, "This is a Jew who is hiding here. You, Muslim, come and kill him."

When we started the armed uprising, it was not done just for us. We recognize ourselves to be the start of a revolutionary movement to bring about a revolutionary stance in Arab and Islamic society. Now that the enemy is victorious, what do we have to tell him? Should we talk about the terms of our surrender? Or should we talk about the conditions under which we sell Palestine? Therefore, under the present balance of power, there is no room at all for talks or plans. Each of these plans speaks of treachery and plots against the ideals of Palestine.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you see the future of the Middle East?

[Jibril] The future of the region will be forged by revolutionary forces. If the region's countries remain silent, they will become the fields for the aggressive powers to play their games and a place for the Zionists to implement their plans. But if the revolutionary forces in the Middle East are able to execute their plans, I feel this region will become a world power, in view of its manpower, geography, and the major forces that it possesses.

So the future will be decided by these forces. We have a clear reason for saying what we do, and that example is Iran. The people of Iran were able to throw out the former corrupt regime. This people fought for a long time to keep their revolutionary principles. In this war the aggressive powers of East and West and the reactionary Arabs mobilized against the Iranian people. By maintaining their revolutionary ideals they prevailed and emerged from this war victorious. The plan of the aggressive countries was to overthrow the ideals of this revolution. Representatives of these aggressive countries came to Tehran to reverse all the plans, to make this country do what they wanted it to do, and to choose its leaders. I believe that all the aware forces of the region must learn lessons from the Iranian revolution. We are waiting for the day when there will be a revolution in all Islamic countries of the world, for these people to tie the bond of brotherhood under the banner of Islam. Then will be the time for us to carry out our historic and civilized role. There we will be a force to be reckoned with in the world, just as we were at the beginning of Islamic history.

[ETTELA'AT] If you have anything else to say, please do so.

[Jibril] This is not the first time I have visited Tehran. I am here to mark the 40th day of the great imam's passing. We have come here sad, to share our grief in this great tragedy, to tell you that we are proud of your great people and your leader. Imam Khomeyni died during a struggle that filled his whole life, so he is a martyr. He never bowed his head to anyone except for God, and we are certain that the people of Iran and their new leader will continue to follow the same path.

You must know that if you ever abandon the principles of revolution you will become a field for the aggressive powers to play their games in and, as before the revolution, Iran will become a market place for the consumption of Western goods and a place for the aggressive forces to roam.

We have great faith in the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i and we know that he was a good student of the imam's and will remain so. We have great confidence in the new leader.

I must also say that the fight against the Jews and the liberation of Palestine is a holy task. The Koran, the saying of the prophet, the speeches of the imam, and his will must be carried out in this regard, because this is an issue that concerns all Muslims. Of course for this leadership and in following this line, we will be few soldiers confronting the aggresive forces.

The death of the imam is a great tragedy. We were hoping to have him with us for many years, but it was the will of God, and the revolutionaries in the Islamic Republic must try harder than ever to fill this void that has been left by the death of the imam.

Jamil al-Tarifi Interviewed on Talks With Shamir

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[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, "Palestinian lawyer," by Zaki Musa; date, place not given]

[Text] [Musa] Where was the meeting held, on whose initiative did it take place, how long did it last, and what did Shamir tell you?

[Al-Tarifi] First of all, the meeting was held in the Israeli prime minister's office on Wednesday 12 July and it lasted about an hour.

The initiative occurred as follows: I was contacted the night before the meeting at 2330 hours by an official from the Civil Administration who informed me that I was required to meet Shmu'el Goren, the Defense Ministry official in charge of occupied territories affairs, in occupied Jeruslam at 1600 hours Wednesday. I went there as scheduled and for 15 minutes we discussed various issues. He conveyed to me Prime Minister Shamir's wish to see me at 1830 hours and to hear my view of the conditions, and so I met with him.

[Musa] What did he tell you when you met with him?

[Al-Tarifi] He said: "I would like to hear your view of the situation, and I hope you will talk openly with me." I told him: "I will speak with complete frankness." I began by saying: I am part of the Palestinian people and do not want to go back to the past or distant history. We have been living under Israeli occupation since 1967. Since the early days of the occupation there have been indications of our people's rejection of the Israeli occupation. And, like the world's other peoples, we have the right to choose our own representatives and to elect our own leadership. Through their experiences and history, our people have, with complete awareness, chosen the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. I believe that the Palestinian people, whether inside or in the diaspora, have the right to establish a Palestinian state. And that state will be established not at the expense of the Israeli State, but on the basis of coexistence within complete peace and good-neighborliness with the Israelis and all the states of the region. As for the other principles, today the conflict in the region can only be resolved by political means, since no power in the world can destroy an entire people. To us, the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories, which many Israelis have portrayed as one of the continuing wars against Israel, is a message of peace addressed to the Israeli people. It confirms that we reject the occupation and wish to live in peace with all sides. At the peak of the intifadah, and during the Algiers conference, resolutions were issued confirming recognition of Security Council Resolutions [as published] 242 and Israel's right to exist. Our people will continue this message until their demands are met and a Palestinian state is established.

Regarding my position on the Israeli peace plan, I told him that this step is a kind of reconciliation between the positions of the two major parties in Israel. It is an Israeli Government plan which is not binding on us, because it lacks many things.

I believe that the issue is being misrepresented, as though it were a matter of who is for or against the elections. We Palestinian people live a democratic life and are not against the elections in principle. The question is: Are the elections an end in themselves or a means of achieving a higher end. On that basis, we ask: What will happen after that? What about the final solution? What will be the fate of the occupied territories? We accepted Resolution 242 and its stipulations about the Israeli State's right. But it also stipulates that land cannot not be seized by force in return for peace. Later you of the Likud Central Committee added new conditions to the plan. It was already unacceptable, but you came and destroyed it completely.

Shamir responded to that point by saying: Regarding the Israeli Government's plan, I am committed to it. So the Likud's conditions are not binding on the government. Shamir explained the plan by saying: It proposes a phased solution, because the conflict is complex and cannot be resolved all at once. So there must be a transitional stage. Such a stage is essential for building trust between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. It does not exist at the moment. During such a stage the Palestinian people will be able to run their daily lives by themselves in all fields, except the foreign and security fields.

Then negotiation would begin on the final phase, without defining the nature or the principle of the final solution.

Shamir said: If negotiations are interrupted or reach an impasse, nothing prevents the initiation of new negotiations with help from the United States and the Arab states until an agreement acceptable to both sides is reached.

[Musa] In what capacity did he ask you to take part in the meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] The Civil Administration contacts me from time to time, which is natural, because we live under an occupation.

[Musa] Did the Israeli side know that you would inform the PLO of the results?

[Al-Tarifi] They say that that figure is considered a follower and supporter of the PLO. And I in turn say that it is true. I support the PLO and cannot deny my support for its legitimate leadership. In my view, their speaking in that way means that there is a dialogue with the PLO.

[Musa] Did you inform the PLO of what happened at the meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] No, I did not. But the PLO knew about the whole meeting. I reaffirmed that everyone must know that nothing is done in the occupied territories without the PLO's knowledge or approval. Thus I repeated that I am Palestinian and that the PLO is my leadership.

[Musa] Why did you delay revealing the meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] The Israeli media began to sow seeds of suspicion after reports of meetings between Palestinian figures and the prime minister. To avoid divisive suspicions I announced the meeting, especially as they were beginning to say that we did not want to name those who took part in the meeting for fear of their lives. I said: Why should I fear my own people and yet live among them. My aspirations are the Palestinian people's aspirations and wishes. And all Palestinian nationalist figures share the same trench as their people.

[Musa] Did Shamir talk about Yasir 'Arafat during the meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] I do not want to discuss that matter.

[Musa] Even incidentally?

[Al-Tarifi] Yes. It was I who started talking about him.

[Musa] And what was Shamir's response?

[Al-Tarifi] This is not the right time to discuss that.

[Musa] Past meetings produced no results. Do you believe that the situation has changed and that such meetings can produce something new that would help to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Tarifi] I do not believe that meetings will lead to a solution of the problem First, we live under the Israeli occupation. They take place at or against our will. Second, when they ask for people with whom to speak, they say that those people are considered followers of the PLO, which means that they have started to accept the results and the change which the intifadah has brought about. Consequently, they have started to realize that the only road to a solution is talks with the PLO by whatever means. They portray the matter to their people differently. Those meetings are nothing but successive doses administered to their people. But I confirm yet again that we are not entitled to negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

[Musa] It is said that Shamir raised the election issue simply so that the Palestinians could reject it. What is your comment?

[Al-Tarifi] In my view, that was probably true at the beginning, which is why we, through the PLO, both inside and outside the occupied territories have not rejected it in principle.

[Musa] What is the position of the the Likud's hardliners on that meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] On the evening of the day before yesterday sharp discussions took place within the Knesset, and many Likud members declared their total rejection of it. Many party representatives such as Yosi Sarid intervened and asked Shamir: Why did you refuse 8 years ago to meet with the very person with whom you are meeting now?

AL-ISTIQLAL Interviews Salah Khalaf

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[Interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Samir Yusuf in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yusuf] What is your opinion of the "belief that Fatah will become the Palestinian Likud" [extreme right]?

[Khalaf] Above all else, Fatah is the movement of the Palestinian people. The name Likud is not a term that one takes pride in being associated with. We are proud to be a movement of the Palestinian people. We seek our people's interests, feelings, and pulses. ltimately, the stands of this people are the stands of our movement. hat is important is that we should not distance ourselves from our people's stands.

We have adopted a number of advanced stands. Others soon followed in our footsteps. For example, some Palestinian quarters within the PLO considered the granting to the PLO of observer status at the United Nations a defeat for the Palestinian people. They even went so far as to consider it treason. They then changed their views after 4 years. Some voices at one stage considered the establishment of a Palestinian state a "dirty act of the devil." Now the situation has completely changed.

What I want to say is that the Fatah Movement represents the Palestinian horizon and the Palestinian people's aspirations. Within the Fatah Movement itself there is a wing which considers the line we are pursuing reactionary. [passage omitted]

[Yusuf] What are your expectations of the next stage should the Palestinian peace offensive fail, given that all indications points to this?

[Khalaf] We have firm objectives. The tactics may change but the objectives do not.

[Yusuf] You have described the dialogue with the United States in many ways. What is required of the United States and what does the United States want from us?

[Khalaf] We want the United States to adopt practical steps in the direction of peace, through which it will convince our people that it is serious in its search for peace. The United States now deals with the "elections" issue as if it is the solution. We accept this idea provided it is part of a comprehensive plan for a solution. The elections in themselves cannot represent and cannot be the solution. Therefore, what is required is a U.S. step on this basis.

[Yusuf] To what extent are you counting on this?

[Khalaf] There is political action; we are not counting on anything. There is nothing in political action called "work until you fail." My understanding of work is to continue and persevere. If I find a door closed, I open a window. This is the history of the Palestinian revolution since 1965—complications and continuing crises, but each time we were able to find a way out.

Now the situation is different. The intifadah [uprising] has given us political perspective and the boldness to engage in daring political decisions. As a matter of fact, it is these decisions that made possible the European summit decisions in Madrid and the reception accorded to brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Paris. The European positions would not have been so positive withut the incentive presented by [the Palestinian National Council meeting in] Algiers.

We should not forget that these progressive stands are being taken by countries which helped create Israel to start with. The United States remained at an impasse. We tried to break that impasse and managed to start a dialogue with the United States. Then there emerged attempts within the Congress to abolish that dialogue. We came under fire with charges concerning Black September and terror thrown at us. This means that we are living in a state of conflict with the U.S. Administration, and this is natural. So long as we know our goals, we will find the means to reach them.

[Yusuf] Is it not possible that the continuation of the U.S. dialogue with us is just a gimmick to distance Europe from the region?

[Khalaf] First of all, Europe has very progressive stands on the Palestinian issue compared with the United States. The gap between the European and U.S. stands is very wide and the two sides differ on their interpretation of many issues. But, I do not think that these differences should be exagerated, for both sides have common interests in the region.

[Yusuf] Our kinfolk in the occupied homeland are pinning great hopes on the Fatah Movement congress. What, in your opinion, are the requisites for backing and consolidating the intifadah, particularly where economic difficulties are concerned?

[Khalaf] The congress will certainly debate these issues at length and, I am certain, will be a boost to the intifadah on the political, organizational, and moral levels. The main task which we will address is the unification of the channels of communication with our kinfolk. Thereafter, we will discuss all the other intifadah issues. I do not think I should go any further on that now.

[Yusuf] Do you still support the concept of the bloodless intifadah [al-intifadah al-bayda']? And what do you think is the way to respond to the escalation of Israeli extremism, particularly among the settlers?

[Khalaf] The settlers cannot possibly be more dangerous than the Israeli army, and as our people were able to confront the army, they will confront the settlers. As for the adoption by the intifadah of the bloody style, I personally do not agree, at least because of the uneven balance of power.

[Yusuf] Are you in favor of armed struggle inside the homeland as a parallel to the intifadah?

[Khalaf] This is another thing. We have never been against the armed struggle, for so far no revolution has ever forsaken that method before liberation is attained. The question is how to use the armed struggle, how not to tarnish our political reputation, and how to select our targets. This we have to consider, for after all we are a people with a civilization, history, and values. Therefore, our confrontation should be with the party that is repressing the intifadah, namely the Israeli Army, which is also the ultimate occupier.

[Yusuf] The strike forces are the arm of the unified leadership of the intifadah. In your view, what is the significance of the new formations such as the popular army, the martyr Abu-Jihad battalions, and others?

[Khalaf] Personally, I am altogether opposed to these new designations. The intifadah must be everything and these designations undermine the intifadah. The intifadah must be everyone's motto. We support the body which leads the intifadah, namely the unified leadership. As for these marginal names, they are bound to confuse the intifadah and weaken it from within. Hence I proclaim loudly that those who support such designations do not want the intifadah to achieve its objectives because they are seeking to fragment it and consequently they are going along with Israel's aim. All these designations must end so that only the unified leadership of the intifadah will remain for everyone to rally around.

[Yusuf] What do you think of the campaign involving the physical liquidation of agents in the occupied homeland?

[Khalaf] I believe it is necessary to wait before carrying out executions. We faced the issue of agents in 1967 and 1968 and I remember that we executed two or three spies. Why? Because we regarded a spy as deserving execution if he had caused the death of another citizen. In those years we established corrective schools to brainwash [ghasl dimagh] these agents and rehabilitate them. Some of them performed military operations later on. I support the policy which the national unified leadership used at the outset of the intifadah on condition that sufficient thought and examination is carried out. Some deserve punishment, while others are capable of returning especially if they have not caused citizens to be killed or harmed the national cause and the citizens. All I hope for is that we should not become confused on this issue. From this premise I emphasize the unified leadership's policy at the outset of the intifadah which provided for a proclamation of repentance then the use of a trial through a unanimous decision.

[Yusuf] What would you like to say that we have not touched on, brother Abu-Iyad?

[Khalaf] The most important thing I would like to note and stress is national unity. Without such unity we will not be able to overcome Palestinian and international difficulties or even psychological difficulties. Our people are capable of giving and they have offered much. I believe that it is not possible to back down from the intifadah because its end would be the end of all our dreams. Let us have more patience. The enemy is complaining and suffering and I am confident that our people will triumph.

[Yusuf] Thank you, brother Abu-Iyad.

PLO Official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh Interviewed

PM0308153089 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Aug 89 pp 24-25

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAWADITH] In the light of the U.S. Congress' recent attempt to stop the dialogue with the PLO and the statements by State Department officials there that the dialogue has achieved no progress, we would like to hear from you, in your capacity as head of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Washington, an objective assessment of what has been achieved, especially since there has been frequent talk about raising the level of the dialogue.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The dialogue with Washington has achieved some relative progress. Since the second round it has begun to discuss the fundamental issues. We raised certain issues with the U.S. Administration to explain our concept of the Palestinian people's political rights. In our view, the only concept consistent with international law and with the fact our existence as a people on a territory and in a homeland is our right to self-determination and independence, like the other peoples. In the recent round, the U.S. side tried to confine discussions to the procedural issues concerning the elections.

But we regard such issues as secondary formalities. It is not of much interest to us, for instance, whether the Israeli army withdraws on election day to return the following day, or whether observers are sent to observe the election in a purely formal and ceremonial way merely to proclaim so-called democracy under the Israeli occupation. All these matters do not concern the Palestinian people at all. What concerns us first and foremost is to ensure that the elections are part of a complete political process leading to the end of the Israeli occupation and guaranteeing our Palestinian people's rights in accordance with UN and Security Council Resolutions. Therefore the starting point in the talks with the Americans is the need to agree on the foundations on which the political settlement must be based. We accept most of the foundations announced by the Americans in various statements, provided that they are included in an international political declaration issued by the Security Council's five permanent member states. These foundations include ending the Israeli occupation, exchanging land for peace, Security Council and UN resolutions, and the international conference to which the Americans agreed, as long as all this is accompanied by a clarification of the concept of political rights, without any confusion or ambiguity—that is, the right to self-determination and independence within a Palestinian state in the [West] Bank and Gaza, whose capital is Jerusalem. Within the framework of these foundations procedural and detailed issues can be discussed later. That is the real application of the "Namibian example" to which the United States agreed. In fact, it supervised the efforts to reach an agreement among the various parties to secure Namibia's independence.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about raising the level of the U.S.-PLO dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Talking about raising the level of the dialogue is still a formal matter. The important thing for us is to raise the level of the U.S. position, regardless of which official figures or representatives convey that position to the PLO. Obviously the expansion and diversification of contacts would prompt major political interest. But what we are primarily interested in is that the United States set the political line for us to follow—especially with regard to recognition of the right to self-determination—prepare for the international conference, and refrain from promoting the lie which Shamir himself swallowed folllowing the outcome of the Likud conference, namely, the Shamir election plan.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that a new date can be set for resuming the dialogue, now that the U.S. Administration has overcome Congress' desire to halt the dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] So far there is no date for a new official round. It seems that the Likud's decisions have caused some confusion to the U.S. Administration and destroyed the credibility of its statements about the existence of positive points in Shamir's plan. There are also questions which are addressed no longer by us alone, but by most of the world's states, including the EC. They still await an answer from the U.S. Administration.

[AL-HAWADITH] Despite the recent Likud decisions, some believe that the Shamir initiative still stands and that it is essential to work to reach at some positive points through it. How can that initiative been regarded?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I understand that the United States has said that the Shamir initiative can be used as a starting point on which to build and that some of its positive points can be exploited. But the PLO has conducted a careful study of the plan, which showed that it represents not a plan for a practical start toward a settlement and the elimination of the occupation but, rather, a plan perpetuating and legitimizing the occupation and liquidating the our Palestinian people's rights. Its aim is to cruelly punish them, fragment their unity, and, first and foremost, destroy the intifadah [uprising] by political means—especially as the methods of terror, starvation, repression, mass detention, expulsion, and murder have failed to achieve Israel's aim of halting the intifadah. This why we told the parties concerned that we found not a single positive point in Shamir's plan. In fact, it backtracks from the Camp David accords which our people did not accept 10 years ago. Indeed the Americans themselves, through U.S. Secretary of States James Baker in his statements to several Arab party, consider them—the Camp David accords—all but null and void and obsolete.

[AL-HAWADITH] Israeli and U.S. parties have tried to play down the negative effects of the recent Likud decisions on the grounds that they are partisan and do not affect the overall position of the Tel Aviv government. How does the PLO view those decisions?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In our view, the recent Likud decisions have destroyed not the peace process, but the lie that Shamir had a plan for achieving peace. The Israeli Government wanted to divert the world public's attention from the central problem—that of eliminating the occupation and reaching a just settlement on the basis of balanced interests, in accordance with the concept which has become internationally approved for resolving various complicated international disputes. The Israeli Government wanted to exploit the magic of the word "elections," in line with the policy that it has always used, namely, the attempt to avoid difficult questions by verbal and superficial tricks and playing for time, in the hope that new factors will emerge in the future and lead to the perpetuation of the status quo and the occupation. The intentions were not hidden in Shamir's plan, which denied the existence of the Palestinian people themselves and called for peace not with that people and their sole legitimate representative but with the Arab states, in accordance with the traditional Israeli policy, which has always been based on the attempt to eliminate the crux of the ongoing conflict in the region. Then came the Likud's decisions to categorically express the aims which Shamir's plan aimed to achieve—namely, the nonestablishment of an independent Palestinian state, no withdrawal from a single inch of the territory, the imposed annexation of Jerusalem, continuing settlement, and the attempt to eliminate the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. These are the Likud's decisions, which constituted the foundation of Shamir's plan. So the only method which can make it possible to reactivate the political process is to work to prepare for the convening of the international peace conference. The five permanent member states [of the Security Council] must meet within the framework of that preparation process. And a dialogue must also be conducted between the various parties concerned with the conflict and the dialogue between the PLO and Israel. We regard this as a complete process paving the way to convening the international conference, since it is the ideal framework for proceeding to a settlement. As for abandoning fundamental issues for secondary issues and details, that was tried for years and even decades but achieved nothing but an impasse. Not only does the Palestinian intifadah represent a historic opportunity to attain peace, but it also confirms daily the fact that it is impossible to return to the situation which has continued for over 20 years—Israeli occupation of our homeland.

[AL-HAWADITH] How can the European position—which took an important step forward with the recent Madrid statement—be developed?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Europeans' Madrid statement contains balanced elements and foundations for achieving the peace process. It is very important that we note that the statement viewed the election process as part of a complete political process leading to the elimination of the occupation and self-determination, with PLO participation in the various stages of peace. That is the only road agreed by the various international forces and blocs agree.

We believe that the Arab countries' role now—in coordination with Moscow and the European states—is to put pressure on the United States to move closer to that concept and the stances embodied in the balanced statement issued by the European states' summit.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that the planned Palestinian-Syrian meeting can open the way to the realization of the idea concerning the need to hold an Arab five-side meeting within the framework of Arab preparations for the international conference?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Meetings were held recently with the brothers in Egypt. They were preceded by meetings with Amman. Contacts were also made with the Syrian leadership. Such contacts could lead to a Syrian-Palestinian meeting in the coming weeks. The aim of all this is to be able to secure a five-way Arab meeting comprising Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, if possible, since they are the parties directly concerned with the international conference and with the settlement. With regard to the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Casablanca Arab summit, unfortunately we can see that the Arab role is now the weakest link. The major task is for the EC, and the five states in particular, to play a coordinated and unified role in preparations for convening the international conference and reaching a comprehensive solution to the conflict.

[AL-HAWADITH] It has recently been reported that Cairo is expected to be the venue for the next round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

['Abd-Rabbuh] No date has yet been set for the next round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. So it is premature and illogical to talk about moving the dialogue to Cairo.

Egypt

Abu-Talib Comments on Talks With President Bush

NC0908094389 Cairo MENA in English 0710 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, Aug. 9 (MENA)—Egyptian Defence Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib has said that the verbal message he conveyed to President Bush from President Husni Mubarak fell within the framework of the good relations between the two countries and the two leaders. In statements at the end of his visit to Washington and prior to his departure to Cleveland, Ohio, General Abu-Talib, said the talks he had with President Bush provided an occasion for both sides to reaffirm the outstanding ties linking the two countries and their Armed Forces. He added that he affirmed to President Bush that President Mubarak's policy was to have good relations with all neighboring countries. Talks also dealt with Egypt's return to the Arab League and President Mubarak's election as chairman of the Organization of African Unity, General Abu-Talib said. The defence minister further said that he affirmed during the meeting Egypt's viewpoint that peaceful solutions provide the only way to resolve all problems in the Middle East and achieve stability. General Abu-Talib also said that President Bush affirmed his appreciation of Egypt and President Mubarak's wise policy and reaffirmed his willingness to push forward Egyptian-American cooperation in various fields. The Egyptian minister went on to say that his meeting with the national security adviser dealt with national security requirements in the Middle East.

Both sides underlined the significance of stability in the area as well as of maintaining an Egyptian Army capable of not only defending the country but also capable of deterrence. Such capabilities could be secured through the modernization of the Armed Forces on basis of advanced technology in addition to the upgrading of local and joint military industries, General Abu-Talib said.

General Abu-Talib said he was satisfied with the outcome of the talks he had with U.S. Congressmen during his stay in Washington. Referring to the talks he had yesterday with senior officials at the State Department—Secretary of State James Baker is currently visiting Mexico—General Abu-Talib said that they covered the current situation in the Middle East and the significance of a strong Armed Forces to maintain peace. The Egyptian defence minister said that he affirmed to American officials that Egypt was against all forms of mass destruction weapons including nuclear and chemical as well as long-range missiles that carry such weapons. General Abu-Talib said that he invited the U.S. Secretary of defence whom he met for the first time to visit Egypt. The [U.S.] defence secretary promised to visit Egypt early next year.

Papers Warn of Repercussions of Israeli Actions

NC0908080389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—In their editorials today, the daily newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR warn U.S officials about the serious repercussions of Israel's acts of piracy and its persistence in rejecting every proposed solution to the Palestinian problem.

In their editorials today, the two papers say that the recent kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by Israeli commandos sparked the hostage issue. The papers believe that this should act as a warning and give impetus to the search for a fundamental solution to the underlying causes of the problem.

AL-AHRAM writes that nobody can underestimate the seriousness of the crisis which was triggered by Israel's kidnapping of Shiite Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, which led to the execution of U.S hostage William Higgins. The paper notes that this, however, is not the central issue. The heart of the problem lies in the current situation in Lebanon and the Middle East, which both the United States and Israel have not done enough to prevent or resolve.

The paper adds that any steps toward peace meet one Israeli obstacle after another and have no place on the list of U.S priorities, despite the numerous steps toward a settlement taken by the Palestinian side.

In conclusion, the paper says that if we are to reach a real solution, we have to focus on the underlying causes of the problem, as represented in Israel's stand and behavior. The paper emphasizes the need for Israel to undertake to end its occupation, exchange land for peace, and put an end to oppressive measures in the occupied territories.

In an editorial entitled "Unreliable Ally," AL-AKHBAR refers to a recent U.S. public opinion poll which revealed a sharp decline in the number of those who viewed Israel as a reliable ally for the United States.

The paper reports that 50 percent of those polled condemned the kidnapping of the Lebanese Shiite leader and his two companions, and viewed it as the fuse which sparked the hostage issue and endangered the hostages' lives.

The paper expresses surprise at the stand adopted by the U.S officials and their persistant support for Israel, regardless of its aggressive and criminal acts which endanger the lives of U.S citizens as well as U.S interests.

AL-AKHBAR notes the positive U.S step of initiating a dialogue with the PLO. It says, however, that this dialogue is making very slow progress, which means continuing tension in the Middle East and the possibility of serious developments with unforseeable consequences.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Congress in Banghazi

LD0808201789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1706 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the Banghazi Center Basic People's Congress—live]

[Excerpts] We greet Banghazi Center conference and through it we greet all the people's congresses, at which the people exercise authority directly, without any deputization or trusteeship. Also, through it I want to ask a question of the people's congress in their current session. All congresses should pay attention to this question. For the one who is not listening now directly, it may be repeated once or twice until he hears the question: It has been 20 years since the eruption of the revolution; we want the Libyan men and women to ask what they now want after 20 years of revolution. We want this question answered by every member of the Basic People's Congress, beginning tomorrow, either directly through debates at the congresses or those who are unable to take part in the debate at the congresses can write the answer on paper and give it to the congress secretariats. Those whose circumstances prevented them from attending the congress can contact the secretariats of the congress to which they belong and give their replies.

I myself have no answer to this question. It could have been possible on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the revolution to say: By God, enough of military rule—assuming that military rule existed, or the revolution command existed—and hand the authority directly to the people. This was achieved in 1977. One may say on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the revolution: Let us change from wage-earners to partners. The workers would say: We want to take our share of the production or administer the factories ourselves, but this has been achieved since 1978. One could now say: Approve the slogan that the land belongs to all and everyone should exploit it with his own effort and satisfy his needs without exploiting others, working, shepherding, and cultivating. This has been achieved. One could say: On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, we want to free prisoners. Well, the prisoners were freed and prisons were demolished. One could say: On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, open the borders with Egypt for us. The borders with Egypt are open. One could say: On this occasion open the border with Tunisia for us. Well, it is open.

Indeed, I myself have no answer for this question: What should we now ask for, now that 20 years have passed since the revolution? Since we are free and we achieve our aspirations through material resolutions issued through the people's congress and implemented by the people's committees. We all want to know what we want to achieve now that 20 years have passed. We want this question to be answered collectively by all the members of the congresses, men and women, and as I have said the one who cannot attend the congress, can speak up from his home, from his position, from the hospital, from the place from which he cannot attend the conference. [passage omitted]

You decide what you want 20 years after the revolution and the peoples popular congresss will implement this resolution if they can. I myself have not found the answer. There is no need for one to say: I wish so and so. [passage omitted]

This is a simple question to ask but it is very important in its meaning. Therefore, I decided to come to the Banghazi Center conference, to this city which was named al-Bayan al-Awwal from which the Libyan people [applause] and the world heard the name republic, revolution. The declaration announced what the new society should be after the revolution. The declaration said it in brief, but it raised very important points. All the things we are doing are an implementation of what came in the declaration: A free and autonomous society, equality, justice, no master, no official. This serious question is being asked once again in Banghazi, from which the first communique of the revolution was declared. I hope that beginning tomorrow there will be interest in answering this question. Forward, the struggle continues. [applause]

Tripoli Chosen as Arab Atomic Energy Head

LD0808172189 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Hannibal [August] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Jamahiriyah was chosen president for the Arab Corporation of Atomic Energy [ACAE] at the conclusion of the corporation's general conference sessions held at the Arab League in Tunisia today.

The conference asserted the importance of backing ACAE to complete its scientific projects to help the Arab countries in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

At the conclusion of its sessions the ACAE general conference approved the five-year plan for the projects and the annual plan for 1990. It also approved the project for coordination amongst Arab countries in the international conference for atomic energy due to be held in Vienna next al-Fatih [September] month.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0508194589 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, sent a message to the leader of the revolution at the end of his visit to Great Jamahiriyah. Text is as follows:

Dear brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great al-Fatih [September], I have the pleasure, as I am leaving the city of al-Bayda' for Khartoum at the end of my visit, to thank you in my name and on behalf of the delegation accompanying me and express our deep gratitude for the warm and fraternal welcome and genuine Arab hospitality extended to us since we arrived in sisterly Jamahiriyah.

Also, I am pleased to laud the colossal development process realised by the Libyan Arab people under its blessed revolution and judicious and competent leadership. While I express my total satisfaction with the good results of our talks, I pray to the almighty Allah for the success of our persistent endeavors towards the unification of the Arab nation and its pride and dignity so as to accomplish the hopes of the one Arab people in welfare, progress, prosperity and success. With my best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity.

'Press Release' on PDRY Minister's Visit

LD0808191489 Tripoli JANA in English 1744 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In both Tripoli and Aden a press release was issued on the visit of Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah.

In the press release: Starting with the fraternal relations between the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and PDRY and in promoting the existing cooperation between them, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali paid a visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah heading an official delegation on an invitation from the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau from 3-5 Muharram 1399 from death of messenger which coincide with [words indistinct] Hannibal 1989.

And in an atmosphere in which the spirit of truthful fraternity had prevailed talks took place on bilateral relations betwen the two sisterly countries. Stress was placed on the need to back them and develop them in various fields to serve the interests of the Arab people in the two countries and Arab causes.

The Libyan Arab side expressed relief towards the steps taken by both Yemens on the road of reestablishing Yemen unity.

The Yemeni side also welcomed the unity steps taken in the Arab Maghreb region as an important step towards building the pan Arab unity. In this respect it praised the unity efforts exerted by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to back the joint Arab action.

Both sides reviewed Arab and international situation on top of which the situation in the occupied Arab land, were [as received] both sides reaffirmed their absolute backing for the struggle of the Palestine Arab people and its courageous uprising in the occupied Arab land to regain its legitimate rights and build its own independent state on its land—Palestine—under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Both sides discussed the situation in Lebanon and expressed their conviction in the need for Arab efforts to continue in order to bring peace to its territories, preserve its sovereignty and unity, land and people.

Both sides reviewed the situation in the African Continent and in particular the situation in the Horn of Africa. Stress was placed upon the need to distance this region from the access of struggle and the importance of preserving national unity and sovereignty for its states and tackle their issues in a spirit of Arab and African responsibility.

In the framework of coordination between the two sisterly countries, both sides agreed upon the following:
1—The joint committee between the two countries hold its meeting in Tripoli in the first half of next Al-Fatih [September] month 1989.
2—An exchange of delegations in all fields and on various levels takes place to consolidate joint cooperation between the two sisterly countries.
3—Rotational meetings to be held between officials in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the Foreign Ministry in PDRY to coordinate the political stances on Arab and international levels.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali expressed pride in the cultural achievement accomplished thanks to the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

He expressed thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his accompanying delegation received. He extended an invitation for the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to visit PDRY which he accepted with thanks and which date to be fixed later.

Mauritania

Group Decries Amnesty International Stand

AB0708153589 Dakar PANA in English 1450 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 7 Aug (AMP/PANA)—The Mauritanian Human Rights League said on Monday it learnt with surprise the "flagrant" taking of sides by the Amnesty International human rights group on the Senegal-Mauritanian dispute.

In a statement quoted by the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the League said it was "deplorable that this important international organisation did not denounce the genocide perpetrated against the Mauritanian community in Senegal in April."

It added that Amnesty International should have "condemned the massive expulsions by Senegal of its own citizens whose only fault is in having remote Mauritanian origin although they do not know or even speak the language of the country."

The League said it condemned the confiscation by the Senegalese authorities of Mauritanian property and the maltreatment of thousands of Mauritanians.

According to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, the statement said, the Mauritanian community in Senegal numbered 500,000, but today Mauritania has only 200,000 of these people.

It added that in spite of the grave violations of human rights, the Senegalese human rights organization remained silent and worse still, a credible organization like Amnesty International continued to cover up the situation.

France Presents Refurbished Ships to Navy

AB3007221189 Paris AFP in French 1750 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 30 Jul (AFP)—France has just refurbished, at a cost of 11 million francs, two ships of the Mauritanian National Navy. This was announced by official sources. The two ships will increase the surveillance capability along the Mauritanian coast as part of the national fishing promotion plan. The official presentation took place today in Nouadhibou (northern Mauritania) in a ceremony chaired by the French ambassador to Nouakchott, Pierre Lafrance, and the head of the Mauritanian National Navy.

World Bank Grants Additional Financial Aid

AB2907102089 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The World Bank has granted an additional loan to Mauritania which will be used to finance the last stage of the economic recovery program [ERP]. In order to accurately evaluate their commitments, Mauritania's money lenders held a 2-day meeting in Paris concerning the financing of the last stage of this country's ERP. The commitments obtained by Nouakchott, which cochaired the Paris meeting with the World Bank, should [words indistinct]. The program is aimed at financing productive public projects in agriculture, fisheries, industry, and infrastructure. The World Bank has committed 1 billion CFA [Communaute Financiere Africaine] francs for the ERP and (?2 billion CFA francs) for the [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Cited on Talks With U.S. Envoy

EA0808205689 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The president of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has assured that the response of Garang's movement to negotiate with the government is a positive step for solving the southern problem. He said that this chance for achieving peace through negotiations is to avoid the (?immediate conflict). Lt Gen 'Umar added that, with the Sudanese foreign [as heard] movements, he will explain to the leaders of the nonaligned countries the objectives of the revolution during the summit conference next month.

In a separate development, Lt Gen 'Umar met yesterday the American State assistant secretary for African affairs, Mr Herman Cohen, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting explored the general American viewpoint on issues connected with its donations to the Third World countries according to Article 513 of the USA Constitution.

Following the meeting, Lt Gen 'Umar explained that Mr Cohen explained to him that America is aware that the former Sudanese Government was not capable of solving the Sudanese problems. Gen al-Bashir added that he explained the causes that led to the revolution and the revolution's policies towards peace, economic revival, (?plural) relations and the revolution's viewpoints to the Islamic shari'a laws. Lt Gen al-Bashir pointed out that Mr Cohen appreciated the revolution's policies, describing them as (?higher) viewpoints, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We, from our part, have explained the failure of the former system to meet the needs, adding that the democratic system that fails to feed its people is too worn out.

Mr Cohen expressed his happiness for the bloodless taking of power that led the world community to respect the Sudanese revolution.

Lt-Gen al-Bashir said on relief, Mr Cohen informed Al-Bashir that the former government and Garang's movement were using starvation as a weapon.

Government Tightens Travel Restrictions

EA0808171989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Aug (SUNA)—Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Economic Committee, has announced the imposition of increased restrictions on Sudanese traveling abroad, including those traveling for treatment in European countries. He told AL-QUWATT AL-MUSALLAHAH, issued here today, that he had, at present, completely suspended travel for treatment abroad and that he would not allow such travel (?except) as approved by the medical commission and then only to Egypt.

He stressed that there was a plan, which would be implemented by the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Sudan, and the Ministry of Health, to bolster the hospitals with modern medical facilities to enable them to conduct delicate operations.

He said large numbers of Sudanese had left their work in the country and emigrated without having made plans to work in their countries of adoption. He said that the call for increased production in Sudan requires manpower in order for it to be succesful.

RCC Official Cited on Corruption Cases

PM0808114489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Official Reveals: Al-Mahdi Government Implicated in Agreements To Dump Toxic Waste"]

[Text] A prominent official in the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation has revealed an incident involving the dumping of toxic waste in Sudan. Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil, council member and the official in charge of security, said that the former government was in the process of agreeing to the dumping of toxic waste in Sudan, but did not identify the foreign quarter behind the operation or the place where the waste was supposed to be dumped.

During a meeting with the Sudanese community in Rabat Brig Gen Nayil, now heading a Sudanese delegation on a tour of the Arab Maghreb states, said that the new leadership has "irrefutable evidence" concerning the matter, in addition to other documents regarding the smuggling of uranium through Sudan.

He also said that former officials, including Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, will be brought to trial on corruption charges once the investigation committees complete their work.

Brig Gen Nayil added that the new leadership has documents implicating many people in the corruption which dominated all sectors during the civilian rule.

He added that the RCC received a a message via Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, a former minister released recently, from the detained party leaders, expressing their admission of responsibility for the failure of the democratic experiment.

With regard to the future of government in Sudan, he said that the new leadership would first work to rescue the country from its dire straits, then efforts can be made to find a new democratic formula granting everyone the opportunity to participate. But he did not give enough details on that question. He strongly denied that the new leadership has links with the [National] Islamic Front [NIF], and asked: Why should we carry out a coup in Dr al-Trabi's (NIF leader) favor?

PDRY

U.S., Israeli Action on Hostages Condemned

EA0808214189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity With the Peoples and Public Opinion of Democratic Yemen has expressed grave anxiety over the tragic developments in the Lebanese arena and over the situation facing the Lebanese people in terms of the conspiracies being hatched by imperialist circles, with the support of the United States, and being implemented by the Israeli enemy.

In a statement issued today, the council strongly condemned the United States' open intervention in the matter of the hostages being held in Lebanon and for using the language of arms and piracy instead of the language of negotiations.

The statement described the U.S. military moves and threats to use force, in contravening international conventions and norms, as being a dangerous precedent aimed at undermining security and stability, both regionally and internationally. They were also aimed at destroying the peace initiatives in the Middle East arena.

The statement appealed to all international organizations and institutions to discharge their responsibilities with regard to the explosive situation in Lebanon and the threat posed by the U.S. military moves and the acts of the Zionist pirates, toward peace, internationally and, particularly, in the region.

Friendship Delegation Leaves for USSR

EA0508212589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity and Peoples' Friendship, left Aden this evening leading a delegation that will spend a number of days in the Soviet Union.

In a statement to ANA, Dr al-Khamiri said that the visit comes within the framework of visits and agreements between people's friendship organizations in both countries. He pointed out that the delegation would discuss a number of international issues and global peace, besides bilateral relations in the field of peace, solidarity, and peoples' friendship. He was seen off by the Soviet charge d'affaires and the director of the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship center in Aden.

Saudi Arabia

YAR Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani Visits

Arrives in Jeddah

JN0508143389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah at noon today. He was received at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah by His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general; His Highness Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Prince Turki al-Faysal; Prince Fahd Ibn-'Abdallah, assistant defense and aviation minister; Finance Minister Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl; Hisham al-Nazir, petroleum and mineral resources minister and deputy planning minister; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and head of the escort mission accompanying the prime minister; Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir; a number of officials; Ghalib 'Ali Gamil, our country's ambassador in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the embassy staff.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani issued a press statement upon arrival in which he said: My delegation and I are extremely happy on our arrival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to meet with the brothers within the framework of the 11th periodic round of talks of the Yemeni-Saudi coordination council, which is considered an example of fraternal cooperation between the two countries. This cooperation has witnessed ever-increasing growth in the various fields within the framework of boosting the special relations between the two countries and peoples bound by ties of brotherhood, doctrine, neighborhood, history, and joint destiny.

He said: The continuation of the Yemeni-Saudi coordination march to realize constructive and brotherly cooperation is considered a true manifestation of the honest and frank desire of the two countries, peoples, and wise leaderships headed by brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The two leaders are always concerned about developing fraternal relations between the two countries and working toward opening new horizons to expand this fraternal cooperation to serve our mutual aims and hopes and the aspirations of our Arab and Islamic nations.

He added: I am confident that this round of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council will yield positive results for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples, which will support and push the cooperation march forward and expand the future horizons of cooperation in all fields. This manifests the strong fraternal relations and continuous development of these relations, the positive nature of which reflects not only on realizing the interests of the two peoples but also on realizing the pan-Arab goals and interests of the Arab nation.

Our meeting with the brothers in the Kingdom also represents an opportunity for us to continue discussions to realize joint bilateral, Islamic, and pan-Arab goals in addition to the issues of mutual interest.

Coordination Council Meets

LD0508171289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 5 Aug (SPA)—The 11th session of the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council was held this afternoon under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, and the Yemen Arab Republic Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. The meeting took place in the office of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan in Jeddah.

At the end of the session, Prince Sultan explained that the first meeting of the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council was a fruitful and constructive meeting. His Royal Highness added that the two sides will hold bilateral meetings, in addition to the council's scheduled meeting this evening, to discuss the remaining issues on its agenda. His Royal Highness confirmed that the council is proceeding in accordance with the set objectives and that it has achieved many objectives pertaining to the consolidation of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Joint Statement Issued

LD0708124889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0553 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 7 Aug (SPA)—The Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council has expressed its full satisfaction at the coordination and cooperation that exists between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic. It said that the cooperation aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries in all spheres to realize the joint objectives and interests.

The two countries stressed their determination to continue effective coordination plans and constructive cooperation in all fields to serve their objectives in a way that would be in harmony with the fraternal ties between the two brotherly peoples.

This came in a joint statement issued at the end of the Saudi-Yemeni coordination council's 11th session. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM Hails Relations

JN0608173289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council"]

[Text] The relations that tie the Kingdom with the sisterly Yemen Arab Republic are some of the strongest ties binding the Kingdom to its sisterly Arab and Islamic states. The two countries have had the most intimate relations throughout history. These relations were crowned by the establishment of frameworks to organize these relations when the two states entered the phase of modern statehood, thus beginning a new era of mutual cooperation aimed at serving the two peoples.

The Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council has been a landmark in the organizational frameworks defining the close ties between the two sisterly countries, resulting in positive factors that strengthened these relations over the years since the establishment of the council.

The 11th session of the coordination council is being held in Jeddah today under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and civil aviation, and inspector general; and His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the Yemen Arab Republic prime minister. Thus, the council is pursuing the long and blessed march sponsored by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Undoubtedly, through coordination between the two countries in various areas, the Saudi-Yemeni council during its current 3-day session will lay more building blocks in the edifice of Saudi-Yemeni relations and promote them further now that the Kingdom and Yemen have taken big strides in joint cooperation, the positive aspects of which have reflected noticeably on the two fraternal peoples.

'Abd-al-Ghani Departs Jeddah

LD0608221889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 August 89, SPA—The prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee in the Yemen Arab Republic, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, left Jeddah this evening after leading the Yemeni side in the meetings of the 11th session of the Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council which ended earlier today. [passage omitted]

Restricted Entry Points Set

LD0708202289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1916 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Aug (SPA)—The interior ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic have issued the following statement:

In accordance with the requirements of the joint public interests of the Yemen Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; in order to facilitate the movements of Saudi and Yemeni citizens between the two neighborly fraternal countries; and further to the current studies and discussions now taking place within the framework of the joint security cooperation between His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi interior minister, and his opposite number His Excellency Dr 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, the interior minister of the Yemeni Arab Republic; it has been decided that the entry/exit points through which citizens can move between the two fraternal countries be confined to:
First: The Western side: al-Tuwal and Harad.
Second: The Eastern side: Khadra and al-Baq'.

Due to this agreement, the Interior Ministries in the two fraternal countries, in accordance with the joint agreement between them, draw the attention of Saudi and Yemeni citizens to the fact that they should use these entry/exit points in their movement between the two countries. The ministries warn that any person violating these instructions will be liable for prosecution in order to maintain the security regulations and facilitate movement between the two fraternal states.

King Fahd Greets Sultan of Oman on Arrival

LD0708162989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah: The Sultan of Oman His Majesty Qabus Ibn-Sa'id arrived here at 1715 hours on a private visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

The delegation accompanying his majesty the sultan of Oman includes His Excellency Qays Ibn-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zuwawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sayf Ibn-Hamad Ibn-Sa'ud, head of the Sultan's Office; and Jum'ah Ibn-Rashid al-Balushi, chief of the protocol.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Leaves for Talks in Jeddah

JN0508134289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, left Sanaa this morning. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Body, and member of the Standing Committee; a number of ministers and officials; and brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fathi, Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

In a statement to SABA' news agency prior to departure, the prime minister and Standing Committee member said: We and the accompanying delegation feel great joy as we leave for the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attend the 11th round of meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council to be held in Jeddah 5-7 August.

During this round, we will discuss a number of issues dealing with developing fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries and peoples, who are bound by ties of neighborhood, doctrine, kindred, language, and joint history.

He said: The convening of this round is very important within the framework of boosting fraternal relations and pushing them forward to serve the interests of the two peoples and the goals of the Arab nation in implementing the desires of the political leaderships in both countries under the leadership of the two brothers, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. It comes also as a translation of their concern to support the fruitful march of cooperation between the two countries and peoples through the joint administration of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council, which is considered a good tool for cooperation between the two countries to realize their joint goals.

The delegation accompanying the prime minister and Standing Committee member includes brothers 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and Standing Committee member; Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, education minister, head of the General Commission for Scientific Colleges, and Standing Committee member; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, information minister and Standing Committee member; Finance Minister 'Alawi Salih al-Salami; Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Nasr al-'Awlaqi; Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy development minister and deputy head of the Central Planning Body; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-Iryani; Muhyi-al-Din al-Zabbi, under secretary of the economic section at the Economy, Trade, and Supply Ministry; Muhammad Ahmad al-Haymi, chairman of the Yemeni Airways board; Colonel Ahmad Muhammad Talib, director general of the Armed Forces Planning Department; and a number of officials.

Prime Minister, Delegation Return

JN0708062789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and his delegation returned to Sanaa early this morning after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit, 'Abd-al-Ghani headed the Yemeni side to the meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council's 11th Session held in Jeddah between 5 and 6 August. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Saddam Husayn's Victory Day Message

JN0808174089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Aug 89

["Text" of "message" from President Saddam Husayn to the Iraqi people and the Arab nation on the 1st anniversary of the "great victory day" on 8 August 1989—read by announcer]

[Text] From Saddam Husayn to the great Iraqi people and to the Arab nation's sons.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O great Iraqi people, O protectors of the Arab nation. A year ago today according to the solar calendar, a firebrand was unleashed from al-Isra' [Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey from Mecca to Jerusalem] and al-Mi'raj [Muhammad's ascension to heaven]. A fragrance from the land of the message spread over glorious Iraq. It towered brightly, like stars in the Iraqi and Arab sky. It prophesied a great change in the life of the Arabs. The angels thanked His mercy for the commemoration of Iraq's great victory with blessings and goodwill. On this day also, our innocent martyrs lined up alongside the martyrs of the Arab Muslims—bearers of the banner of Islam at its great dawn—chanting God is great and thanking Him for his glorious victory, because he delighted their eyes and the eyes of their people with fruits of unsurpassable qualities and unique taste. This fruit is that of their noble blood. Then there came the clear victory.

O glorious Iraqis, O protectors of the Arab nation, the day we have just described was the result of all the days of jihad, patience, sacrifice, stamina, determination, deep belief, and optimism which did not stop throughout the 8 years of unparalleled fighting on land, sea, and air, which made past tribulations of the Arabs seem simple.

This, your day, O Arabs, is the day of days in relation to your sacrifices and confrontations of the terrors which you alotted to the Iraqis to confront in your stead. They proved that they were the best fitted to accept the task. The whole nation crossed over a bridge of the noblest bodies extended over the treacherous gap in the fighting arena, stretching from the bank of obstacles, where its enemies were directing arrows of treachery and conspiracy to prevent it from crossing to the other bank—the bank of security, victory, glory, and triumph.

This day is the day of days. A new work spirit emerges perfumed by the scent of trust and overflowing with hope and higher aspirations where there is glory, progress, and development. It remembers God, the everlasting, the living, in every step. It explodes with all energies to extract special rules from the spirit of the fight to cope with the requirements of the age and the demands of science and action.

This day, then, is actually 2 days. It is one day for sacrifice, jihad, and giving; and another day for work, aspiration, hope, and construction. It is a day of our past, as well as our present and future. The day of our past has its spirit and values implanted in our present. The day of our present extends into our future to propagate hope within us, which continues to aspire for higher ambitions after the duties of each stage are performed.

The day of days which dawned on 8 August, 1988 A.D., is a day for the glorious and fragrant anniversary. It is a day for a memory that should never fade for the Arabs and the Iraqis to remember their enemies and their evil deeds and to learn how to plan and deal with situations so that the enemies will not lead them into their traps and evil, begrudging goals.

O Arabs, O Iraqis, o zealous men of the Armed Forces and their supporters in the Popular Army: You have fought the evil aggression and aggressors for 8 years. And the aggression and aggressors, with all their evils, were not only fighting against Iraq's and its aspirations, but also against the Arabs—their present and future. The aggression was also aimed against the Arabs' history as the aggressors encroached on their holy places and symbols.

Therefore, your efforts and sacrifices were not only national, but also sublimely pan-Arab and humanitarian, stemming from Islam, and are aimed against trickery, falsehood, and charlatanism. History will preserve these acts in places where acts like them in significance, firmness, struggle, and results are remembered.

In light of these stands, the Iraqis insisted—while fighting the enemy with different weapons in various fields—on continuing construction so that it would rise high in its cultural, spiritual, and material aspects. Therefore, when millions of gunbarrels were firing with rage, millions of students were on their seats at their schools, colleges, and institutes and at every available place to study and acquire knowledge; and millions of men, vehicles, and equipment were at work. The determination was that life should not stop while blood was being shed on the soil of Iraq in glorious, heroic, and epic fighting. This is so because if life stops our enemies will win the war and harvest evil results.

And this is how it went on. Construction continued apace while fighting waged fiercely on the battlefronts.

Today, 1 year after the victory declaration of 8 August 1988; 1 year after these lessons were strongly entrenched in the minds of Iraqis and all the Arabs—lessons they learned from the experience of other nations that triumphed over their enemies only to find their lives had deteriorated when victory was declared because the victory was not a victory of life, but only a victory in the battlefield and the battle was not waged in all the fields of life—and after taking into consideration all these lessons and experiences, I say that we are dutybound to record in history the men of al-Qadisiyah and their sacrifices, persistent work, and construction that is on the rise. We are dutybound to record the sacrifices of the martyrs and those who are living in their right places. The mission of construction is similar to that of fighting the enemies in the battlefield although its is linked with construction methods and objectives.

This is what we have done by reconstructing what had been destroyed by the war and by regaining the lost opportunity to rebuild the infrastructure in Basra. We are reconstructing al-Faw after liberating it and we are launching a construction campaign in the city of al-Mawsil. Before this, the Iraqis affirmed that their souls and minds were rising high and competing in creativity, knowledge, and learning. The heroes of military industrialization have registered various levels of progress in this area.

We recall all this on the day of days and thank God for enabling us to impose on a haughty and stubborn people a fait accompli they neither wanted nor imagined that forces them to accept the cease-fire. We also recall that the cease-fire alone is not a strong citadel of peace, but believe that a comprehensive, complete, and clear peace agreement in which legitimate rights and duties are specified is what we are seeking. Those concerned in Iran are still far away from this in their behavior, and perhaps in their intentions, too.

Despite this, our desire for peace has been proved by the past 9 years, during which Iran has not registered anything except its letter approving Resolution 598 under known circumstances. In that letter, there is nothing indicating acceptance of peaceful relations between Iraq and the Arab nation on one hand and Iran on the other. This letter's bitterness, its assertion that their acceptance came under circumstances full of bitterness, and the refusal of the concerned Iranians to take any step toward peace, do not bode well for Iran's intentions. However, peace came as a result of the halt to the fighting.

Why then do we insist on a peace included in a comprehensive peace document? We insist on this because waiting weakens the determination to use all energies in other areas of action and that preventing energies from being used in work is a loss for the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. It is also a certain loss for the Arab nation. Moreover, anticipation and caution may prompt Iran, which is still in an abnormal condition in all areas, to give special opportunities at the expense of its independence to other sides which are lying in wait for victims, and that such behavior may involve Iran in erroneous calculations again.

As we are in an age whose special characteristics are known to everyone, the absence of a peace agreement makes economic and trade activities in the region's countries subject to the worst expectations. The resulting losses will be borne by every country in accordance with its capabilities, which also may be used in preventing the aggression from achieving its goals. The calculations of the war experience come first in all considerations.

Iran's losses, therefore, are greater than those of the Arabs or the Iraqis. The Arabs and Iraqis have proved that they possess the capabilities to put the economic targets in their countries out of Iran's destructive reach. Our heroic Air Force, on the other hand, was able to inflict real damage and destruction on Iran's economic facilities. These facts weaken Iran's commercial position and its cooperation with the world in the field of development.

Although we are actually experiencing peace in that the war has stopped, the peace circumstances under which the opportunities of a stable life can be achieved will greatly benefit the Iranians, the Iraqis, and the Arabs. Under such circumstances, opportunities will not be wasted and resources and money will not be squandered on unnecessary fears and obsessions. He who aspires to a true peace must resolve the problem of the POW's in the two countries in accordance with the Geneva Convention on POW's throughout the world.

When, from time to time, we call for tackling the POW issue and embark on initiatives to secure their release from captivity, it is not because the Iraqi Armed Forces do not hold Iranian POW's. Iraq holds tens of thousands of Iranian POW's, and when we call for full and comprehensive exchange of POW's, it is because we enjoy a sense of national and humanitarian responsibility, while the Iranian officials lack this sense of responsibility toward their POW's and toward humanity.

The Iranian officials should remember that those who are more able than others truly to express national and humanitarian responsibilities and respond to the laws of the age and the aspirations of nations and peoples are more able than others to persist and stand fast. In retrospect, the experience of the 8-year war was supposed to have clarified the picture for the Iranian officials.

Those who desire true peace must deal with the issue of POW's and refrain from subjecting this issue to cheap bargains. They must also abide by the agreement of 8 August 1988, work seriously toward the achievement of a full peace agreement, remember the experience of the war, and make true estimations and attitudes toward the rights and capabilities of others.

We disbanded the Special I Army Corps, discharged 203,211 Armed Forces personnel during the period 18 October 1988 to 30 June 1989. We also decided to suspend from service the Popular Army cadres until further notice. The implementation of this decision began on 17 June 1989. We also reconstructed the infrastructure and civilian installations in Basra. We have embarked on the reconstruction of al-Faw.

Thus, we give shape to the meaning of life as we understand it and we also express our harmony with the laws pertaining to improvement in the contemporary age. Thus, we also send a message containing these ideas to the Iranian peoples. Besides, we also express a sign of good intent to the Iranian rulers, if they need such a sign.

Thus, we, in our intentions, view peace as a final status, despite the fact that we take our guard as part of a balanced approach and perspective that takes into account the probabilities governing the bad things which might be initiated by the other party.

Glory to Iraq! Glory to the Arab nation! Glory to martyrs! Glory to the energetic and zealous!

2d Oil Pipeline Across S. Arabia To Open 19 Sep

JN0908130289 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 9, INA—The second Iraqi crude oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia will be opened on September 19 next with the capacity of 1,650,000 b/d [barrels per day] and at a cost of two billion dollars.

Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim Iraqi oil minister told INA that more than 90 percent of the project which started in 1987 had been achieved and it is regarded one of the greatest projects in the world.

He added that six relay pumping stations on 1,500 km-long pipeline had [been] accomplished, one of them in the Iraqi land and the other five are in the Saudi territory. He said that the diameter of the pipeline extended on the land was 56 inches while the other on the Red Sea was 42 inches.

The Iraqi oil minister referred that the project included establishing large tanks on the Red Sea coast to store crude oil with the capacity of one million barrels each and a large pumping station including three small ones.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the pipeline would extend to 1.3 km into the Red Sea and reach the loading platforms designed to receive the largest oil tankers in the world with the capacity of 500,000 tonnes each.

Information Minister Comments on Syria, Lebanon

JN0608071689 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 4 Aug 89 pp 48-50

[Interview with Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by Sana' al-Sa'id in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] The security situation in Lebanon is still bad, and Syria is shelling Beirut and laying a siege in an effort to block an Arab solution. The Arab world, meanwhile, balks at imposing a solution on Syria. What do you think?

[Jasim] Let me recall for the record that when relations with Syria were at some point good, President Saddam Husayn told President al-Asad that Iraqi-Syrian ties will not be good short of Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon. And previously—in 1975, 1976, and 1977—President Saddam Husayn said during meetings with party cadres that the Zionists were behind plans being concocted in Lebanon and that should the Zionists succeed in fragmenting Lebanon, they will then move to the other Arab locations. Therefore, the presence of occupation forces in Lebanon serves to affect the unity of the country. We proceed from this argument in our call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, most of all the Syrians, the Iranians, and the Israelis so that the people of Lebanon are left to run their country; elect a president, their constitutional bodies, and a speaker of Parliament speaker; and then move to form a government that will be blessed by all the Arabs. The Syrian presence in Lebanon provides a pretext for the Israeli and Iranian presence there.

Iraq said at the Casablanca Arab summit that Syria ought to leave Lebanon. Then it will help us achieve the withdrawal of the Iranians, whom Syria brought there. The Arabs will agree on getting the Israelis to leave Lebanon. Without this scenario, we will continue to go around in circles. Israel demands that the Syrians withdraw first. Syria meanwhile says that Israeli must depart first. Thus the burden is falling on the shoulders of the Lebanese themselves with their country being torn apart, their women humiliated, their children killed, their homes destroyed, and their country being burned to no avail.

At the Casablanca summit, there was unanimity on the need for the forces of occupation to depart Lebanon.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it fair to say then that an improvement in Syrian-Iraqi relations is subject to Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Jasim] There is no connection between the political relations between Syria and Iraq and the former's withdrawal from Lebanon. We resent a connection being made between our relations with Syria and its departure from Lebanon. We support 'Awn's government because it is a democratic regime. Failing Arab support and given the immense pressure he is coming under from Syria and others, the contention that his government is an Israeli agent will lead him to call on Israel's support. Ours is a pan-Arab stand supportive of legitimacy represented in the government of Michel 'Awn. This does not mean that we are against Muslims in Lebanon.

[Al-Sa'id] The Syrian-Iraqi conflict in Lebanon is one of the most serious developments in the Arab arena, especially given the Israeli and Iranian dimensions in Lebanon. This state of affairs makes it all the more important that efforts be redoubled to avert Lebanon's becoming an arena of confrontation between Syria and Iraq. I wonder whether your support for 'Awn is not a kind of a settling of accounts with Syria to avenge its support for Iran during the 8-year [Gulf] war?

[Jasim] Under no circumstances will we make Lebanon an arena for settling our accounts with Syria. We leave what Hafiz al-Asad and what the Syrian regime did for history and the Arabs to judge. The Arabs know that the Syrian regime allied itself with the Iranian regime to topple the Iraqi order. There exists an agreement to this effect signed in Damascus. The Arabs also know that the Syrian regime furnished support, advice, and intelligence to Iran during the war. It is neither acceptable nor logical that we should settle accounts with Syria in Lebanon.

[Al-Sa'id] However, supplying 'Awn with weapons was interpreted as a move designed to negatively affect Syria's position.

[Jasim] As I have said, we support 'Awn and do not fear anybody because of this stand of ours, as we believe that 'Awn represents the legitimate authority and takes up arms to defend his country against the invading troops of Syria, Iran, and Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] If Syria withdraws its troops from Lebanon, can we say then that fences could be mended with Iraq? In other words, would a Syrian troop withdrawal lead to a restoration of ties between the two countries?

[Jasim] Improving the Syrian-Iraqi relationship hinges not only on the situation in Lebanon. There are deeply-rooted wounds in the hearts of the Iraqis caused by the Hafiz al-Asad regime. To remedy this problem, Hafiz al-Asad must drastically reconsider his regime's behavior, whether pertaining to the withdrawl of its troops from Lebanon or to its relationship with the [Palestinian] resistance and with all Arabs. If this happens, we would then view this regime as one that has begun to purge itself of the tumors plaguing it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Iran attempted to bargain and said that it would accept dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab in exchange for an Iraqi decision to commit itself once again to honoring the 1975 agreement.

[Jasim] As for us, the Shatt al-'Arab is a waterway that falls under Iraqi sovereignty. Half of this waterway was considered Iranian in accordance with a principle contained in the 1975 agreement. When this agreement was abrogated, the rights granted to Iran in accordance with this agreement became null and void, according to our understanding [of the agreement]. When we call for dredging the Shatt al-'Arab under UN supervision and in accordance with the sequence of the paragraphs of the UN resolution, this does not mean that we are relinquishing the Shatt al-'Arab, which is an Iraqi waterway. For us and the Iranians to gain time, we say that the cease-fire must be consolidated and that the Shatt al-'Arab must be dredged without mentioning the party to which the Shatt al-'Arab belongs. After the negotiations, all people and the Iranians themselves will know for sure that the Shatt al-'Arab falls under Iraqi sovereignty. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Considering the reports stating that the USSR has bolstered its ties with Iran and that an arms deal has been concluded between Iran and the USSR during the recent visit to Moscow by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, does this cause you any concern?

[Jasim] Our ties with the USSR are good. When we have any remarks to make, we convey them through diplomatic channels. Our ties with our Soviet friends allow us to know the capabilities of the equipment supplied to the Iranians. Hence, there is no concern at all.

[Al-Sa'id] Lastly, what is your opinion vis-a-vis what appeared as a step forward in Egyptian-Libyan ties after the convening of the Casablanca summit?

[Jasim] We hope that all those who wronged Egypt will understand facts and that the scales covering their eyes will be removed.

Shamir: Ties With Jordan Normal; Incident Unusual

TA0808163389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Relations between Israel and Jordan are definitely normal, the incident is an exceptional case of a border crossing. This was stated today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir:

[Begin Shamir recording] From what I know, I do not regard this as anything out of the ordinary. It is basically an exceptional case of a border crossing, that ended well. There have been a number of cases like this before, but in general I do not see any special problem in our relations with Jordan. [end recording]

Shamir was speaking at the graduation ceremony of a class at the National Defense College.

Contact With Patrol Maintained

TA0808172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Interview with Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, by Elat-based correspondent Roni Daniyel on 8 August in Elat—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Daniyel] How long did the operation last, from the moment the decision to break inside was made, until the moment it was over?

[Vilna'i] I do not want to go into details, but it was a matter of seconds. [passage omitted]

[Daniyel] General Vilna'i, is any sort of either direct or indirect communication maintained with the Jordanians in situations of this sort? Contact aiming to explain what is going on, and to prevent misunderstandings in which people on the other side might misinterpret activities we are conducting so close to the border?

[Vilna'i] First of all, we are in sovereign Israeli territory, and are free to take all necessary actions. It is true that we act under Jordanian observation, but anything we do is in accordance with the rules of the game. We did nothing that is contrary to these rules. The Jordanians are perfectly aware of this.

The other thing is this: From the moment the event started there was communication with a Jordanian patrol, via shouting, that was then at the infiltration point on their side of the border. The soldier might have been a member of that patrol before he defected. From this communication we understood what was going on.

Now that the incident is over, moves should be taken by the high echelons to point out what to me is perfectly clear: We have no quarrel with the Jordanians. The fact that the man was a Jordanian soldier should create no difficulties with the Jordanians. It is a private case of a soldier who decided to do it; to this moment, no element is known to be behind his act. [passage omitted]

IDF Denies Capture of 'Terrorists'

TA0808170889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A REUTER correspondent in Jerusalem has reported that two more terrorists were captured in the south, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman firmly denied the report.

Shomron: 'No Reason' for Concern

TA0808193789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live in the Tel Aviv studio]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, is it now going to become a tradition that each time a Jordanian soldier crosses the border we will say that it is another crazy Jordanian soldier infiltrating through the 'Arava to carry out an attack, and possibly kill people?

[Shomron] The Jordanian border, which is extremely long, is quiet. It is possible to travel, work, and continue all other civilian activities along it. In the past 2 years there have been four incidents of infiltration, or shooting, from the Jordanian border. Three of them involved Jordanian soldiers, and the other one involved terrorists. That was the incident in which Sergeant Li'or Oren of Kefar Sava, of blessed memory, was killed.

I would like to say that even though this border is quiet, the whole setup—the civilian and military infrastructure—are well prepared to react speedily and organize themselves for the possibility of an infiltration from that border.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, perhaps it would be beneficial to contemplate a conceptual change regarding the 'Arava border line, seeing, as you said, that there have been several incidents over the past 2 years. Perhaps this warrants a reassessment of the means of defending the settlements along the 'Arava border line?

[Shomron] Reassessments are always positive. At the same time, it is no coincidence that the Jordanian border has been quiet. It is truly in Jordan's interest to maintain a quiet border. Jordan knows that it is responsible for that border, in every sense of the word and with everything that this implies. Jordan has been doing its best to prevent these infiltrations, although sometimes it fails. Nevertheless, this state of affairs allows us to deploy relatively few forces in that area, although they can still act swiftly, as we saw again today.

[Shlonsky] What you are actually saying, Mr Chief of Staff, is that the concept governing the defense of the 'Arava region settlements will not change.

[Shomron] Correct. I see no reason for concern. At this stage, I see no reason for worrying or fearing that the Jordanian border has become dangerous. I definitely do not think this is the case.

[Shlonsky] This evening we heard for the first time that a new unit was formed in the Elat environs whose mission is to prevent terrorist attacks. Can you tell us a little about that unit and how it functioned at Kibbutz Lotan today?

[Shomron] That team was established many years ago, when I was still commander of the Southern Command. It was set up following the realization that the distance between Elat, its vicinity, and the southern part of the 'Arava requires the deployment of a unit capable of reacting more quickly than other units that would otherwise be summoned from the central part of Israel. It includes reservists, excellent fighters who maintain a high standard and who undergo frequent training to remain prepared for such an eventuality. Indeed they were the first to arrive today.

When I arrived at the kibbutz, accompanied by the commander of the Southern Command, and queried the commander of the unit regarding its competence, I asked him when it had held its most recent exercises. I discovered that it had undergone training only a short while ago, and that it was well prepared. I decided that this unit would be responsible for the operation should we decide to move in and try to overpower the soldier holding the female soldier hostage.

[Shlonsky] How, in effect, was that done?

[Shomron] We actually conducted negotiations. Let me remind everyone that in such situations our sole objective is to get the people out alive. If we succeed in doing that quietly, through negotiations—fine. If, however, it transpires in the course of negotiations that it is impossible to rescue the hostages in this way, we move to the operational sphere of overpowering the adversary, taking all the risks. This time the [Jordanian] soldier was killed, while our soldier escaped unscathed from the whole escapade.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, thank you for coming to our studios.

[Shomron] Thank you.

UAE Press Cited on Plans for More Abductions

LD0808202889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi newspapers announced today that the joint U.S.-British security committee, which has been assigned the task of following up the hostage crisis, has presented an urgent report which reveals that Israel intends to abduct the leaders of Lebanese opposition groups, just as it abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

AL-ITTIHAD, printed in the UAE, wrote today that this plan by Israel is supported by some of the Zionist regime's officials, including the head of the Armed Forces. The newspaper adds that the United States will ask Israel to refrain from the plan since negotiations on the fate of the hostages are in progress.

Rabin: Greater Chance for Solving Hostage Affair

TA0808155489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Now to the crisis over the hostages in Lebanon. The defense minister today expressed optimism that progress could be made:

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that today there is a greater chance—not a certainty, only a chance—for this. It will require perseverance, restraint, and patience. We are bound to experience ups and downs, and perhaps also additional threats that we will have to deal with wisely. [end recording]

The defense minister was speaking at the Labor Party Central Committee meeting.

Wants 'Sign of Life'

TA0808165189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Now to the hostage affair. UN envoy Marrack Goulding is winding up this round of his talks and taking off for New York this evening. He met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today, as our correspondent Itay Engel reports:

[Begin recording] [Engel] After an hour-long meeting with Minister Rabin at his office, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding explained that his presence in the Middle East is not meant as mediation between the parties to bring about the release of the hostages in Lebanon. It is intended to find out what happened to U.S. Colonel Higgins and, if he was indeed executed, to bring his body back to the United States. The defense minister shared with me the information he had about Higgins, said Goulding without going into detail. He added, however: I told Mr Rabin that if the present crisis is resolved, it will be thanks to a prolonged process, and to quiet and patient diplomacy.

The second part of the session was devoted to the operation in which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was abducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Marrack Goulding heard the defense minister's version of the kidnapping. Rabin believes that this is a bargaining chip to be used in the efforts to release the Israeli hostages held by Hizballah. Goulding later reiterated the UN position on the matter, a position quite unlike Israel's.

The situation now is that the hostage crisis might be resolved, said Marrack Goulding. Yet the abduction of Shaky 'Ubayd was not conducive to it:

[Goulding, in English] Well, I believe that there are developments in the international climate which create possibilities for a solution of the hostage crisis which did not exist before. But I also have to say that the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd does not help.

[Engel translates the above, continues] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, for his part, reiterated Israel's position, clarifying that we want to convert our achievement—the fact that we have Shaykh 'Ubayd in our hands—into something resulting in the resolution of the Israeli and Western hostage affair in Lebanon. Minister Rabin also specified the means Israel wishes to employ to lead to the conclusion of that crisis:

[Rabin] I emphasized to Mr Goulding that I and the Israeli Government regard the International Red Cross [IRC] as the most effective channel to effect the beginning of talks or negotiations toward realizing this goal. The next phases of these contacts, as we see them, involve first of all receiving some sign of life from the Israeli MIA's and POW's so we can tell whether they are really still alive today. Likewise, there should be a similar sign, through the IRC, from the Shiite elements held by us.

These were Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks to UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding. Goulding is scheduled to hold another meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu before he returns to New York to report on the outcome of his talks to the UN secretary general. [end recording]

Peres, Rabin Address Labor on Staying in Cabinet

TA0808162189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Report by Yaron Deqel from the Labor Party Central Committee's session in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpt] The Labor Party Central Committee will not adopt any dramatic resolutions. According to the draft proposal agreed upon by the drafting committee, the Central Committee will reiterate the party's positions: It will reaffirm the principle of territories for peace; support voting rights in elections in the territories for Jordanian citizens residing in East Jerusalem; support foreign observer supervision of this process; and call for the halt of all settlement activity once the negotiating process begins. The Central Committee is also expected to state that the peace process is a precondition for the Alignment's continued partnership in the coalition. The draft proposal was endorsed by Ministers Peres and Rabin, and will be voted on later this evening.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres created the impression that the Alignment will not secede from the Cabinet any time soon. At the same time, he also clarified that the Labor Party will not tolerate any further attempts by Likud ministers to halt the initiative:

[Begin Peres recording] Any time we witness a deliberate attempt to kill the peace process—which is what the conditions were all about, an attempt that almost succeeded—we will definitely give the Israeli political system a thorough shaking. [end recording]

The Labor Party chairman told his fellow party members: As long as there is a chance to move the process forward we will remain in the Cabinet. We will struggle to make sure the process achieves its goal.

[Begin Peres recording] There is no need to hesitate in remaining in the Cabinet if it gives peace a chance. The problem is not that of momentary prestige. Our path will not be set by considerations of prestige, but by the truth. [end recording]

At this juncture Peres mentioned the polls, which were not too flattering to the Labor Party. Our fate will not be determined by the polls, said the finance minister this evening. And another quote from Peres' address: We have in fact gone back to square one. No real progress has been made in the peace process.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said: The key to the peace initiative is finding a partner from among the inhabitants of the territories. In that context I do not care whom they consult. My objection to negotiations with the PLO does not stem from my sitting together with the Likud around the Cabinet table, said the defense minister.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Likud is the last to make even the weakest utterance against negotiations with the PLO. If there was ever a government in Israel that engaged in negotiations, and reached an agreement with the PLO through the United States, it was the Begin government that did just that in 1981. They cannot teach me anything. They have no right or moral justification for doing so. [end recording]

Rabin also addressed Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with Jamil al-Tarifi, saying: A meeting with Jamil al-Tarifi constitutes a clear message, which the Palestinians understand better than you, and that is what counts. It is necessary to address the Cabinet resolution and everything that happened beyond it, said the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Labor Endorses Principles; Rabin on Negotiations

TA0808175689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Labor Party's Central Committee a short while ago resolved that East Jerusalem Arabs should be allowed to participate in the proposed elections in the territories, but they should not be allowed to vote in East Jerusalem itself, and the city must remain united under Israeli sovereignty. At a meeting called in response to the Likud Central Committee's restrictions on the government's peace initiative, the Labor Party resolved that negotiations would be held with the Palestinians without delay and without conditions—in other words, not necessarily before the end of the intifadah [uprising]. On the other hand, the resolution said the elections must be conducted in an atmosphere of non-violence.

There was little tension during the debate because it had already been decided that Labor would not leave the government. Excitement increased, however, when Defense Minister Rabin arrived and reported on the hostage incident in the south. Most of his speech was devoted to the contacts over the hostages in Lebanon, as we hear in this report from Le'a Zinder:

[Begin recording] Rabin stressed that throughout the years of the state's existence the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has undertaken only one military action to release hostages, and that was at Entebbe. The reason, he said, was that as long as Israel was dealing with Arab states, the government knew that Israeli captives would be brought to prison, albeit sometimes after delay. They would give a sign of life, and would even be allowed to write letters home. Negotiations were often lengthy and tough, he said, but they did take place. However, today, he said, 3 and ½ years after IDF soldiers Alshekh and Fink were captured in Lebanon; 3 years after navigator Ron Arad was taken; 7 years after IDF soldiers Baumel, Feldman, Katz, and Samir As'ad were taken, we are given no sign of life. And despite repeated attempts by Israel to negotiate through friendly countries and the International Red Cross [IRC], the Shiite organizations holding the captives have not even responded. I believe, said Rabin, our action in taking Shaykh 'Ubayd made the world wake up.

I was happy to hear from Under Secretary Goulding today, Rabin went on, that the United Nations does not plan to play a part in any negotiations on the release of the hostages. It is preferable, he said, that the IRC—which has dealt with such situations in the past—should undertake the negotiations. Up to this moment, he said, no Shiite organization has approached the IRC. If and when the IRC believes it has a negotiating partner, then we will talk, and we'll say first of all: Give us a sign of life from all of the hostages who are candidates for release. As long as we don't know who's alive and who is not, we cannot discuss anything else, said the defense minister. I believe, said Rabin, that today there is a chance, not a certainty, that the hostages will be released, but it will take much time and great patience. [end recording]

Labor 'Hawks' Insert Additions to Resolutions

TA0808184289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] No independent Palestinian state will be established, and Jerusalem will remain unidivided and under Israeli sovereignty—these are the two amendments introduced to the draft resolution of the Labor Party Central Committee at the behest of the party's hawks. The resolution adds that the permanent solution will be based on the policy of territories for peace; the Arabs of East Jerusalem who hold Jordanian citizenship will be permitted to participate in the elections; and observers will be allowed to supervise the elections. Upon the opening of negotiations, a ban will be imposed on the establishment of new settlements. This report was filed by our correspondent Yaron Deqel.

Adopts 12 'Braces'

TA0808195789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee this evening adopted 12 principles to promote the peace initiative. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that they were termed the party's braces, recalling the braces adopted by the Likud. The 12 principles include a rejection of the policy of not giving an inch, although it was stated that no Palestinian state would be established. The negotiations toward a permanent solution will be conducted on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The draft resolution also states that the Arabs of East Jerusalem who are Jordanian citizens will be permitted to participate in the elections, provided that balloting is not held in Jerusalem, and that the city remains under Israeli sovereignty. The negotiations on the principles of the initiative will begin as soon as the Palestinians show up for talks in a nonviolent atmosphere. Efforts will simultaneously be made to quell the intifadah [uprising].

It was further agreed that observers from countries maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel, who will be agreed upon, will be allowed to participate in the supervision over the elections. These elections will be political, free, and democratic. The representatives who will be elected in them will be assigned three roles: to conduct negotiations on the interim arrangement; to constitute the nucleus for the self-rule body; and to conduct negotiations on a permanent solution.

The Alignment's braces also state that once the interim arrangement becomes effective, the military government will withdraw to areas that will be determined in accordance with the Camp David agreements. During the transitional period the Palestinians in the territories will be granted political rights.

Palestinians from outside the territories will be included in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. They will have to be acceptable to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians in the territories.

The draft resolution says that Israel will take a positive view of the participation of Egypt and Jordan in the process.

The Labor Party Central Committee ruled that once the negotiations get started, no additional settlements will be established until the transitional period begins. The settlement issue will be debated in negotiations between Israel and the leaders of the self-rule body.

Conflict of Interests on Hostages, Soldiers Seen

TA0808114489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 89 p 1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "There Is Still No Mailbox Through Which To Send a Direct Message to the Kidnappers"]

[Text] Contrary to all reports, negotiations on a prisoner swap have not yet begun and Israel has still not received any demand, either direct or indirect, about the "price" Hizballah is asking for the release of all the hostages, including the Israeli soldiers. Mediation efforts are in their very initial stages, and the parties involved are looking for the right address to make contact with the kidnappers.

Reports of the last few days about the alleged demands of Hizballah and the kidnappers should be seen as trial balloons. Israel does not take them seriously, and that is why it decided not to make any comments. Seeing that the Hizballah leaders also deny any connection with the kidnappings, a bizarre situation has emerged whereby Algerian and other officials are talking to people who say they do not know who the kidnappers are.

Contrary to the negotiations conducted a few years ago with Ahmad Jibril's group, in this case there is not even a mailbox through which to send a direct message to the kidnappers. Everybody knows that those involved are clandestine groups affiliated with Hizballah, but that is not enough. In any event, the feeling at the moment is that the best indirect address, the one that can influence Hizballah and its splinter groups, is Iran. The Algerian mediators, too, are now turning primarily to Tehran.

What some of the parties are trying to do at this point is to exchange information and coordinate positions in anticipation of negotiations. U.S. Ambassador William Brown has been making frequent trips to the Defense Ministry and meeting with Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, but it is doubtful that these sessions will lead to any new developments.

Coordination with Washington, on the hostage issue as well, is important, but one must bear in mind that misunderstandings might arise when the moment comes and everybody turns to Israel, which will be expected to reveal its cards.

Israel is the only one that will have to pay for the release of all the hostages, and not just for the Israeli prisoners—a conflict of interests could emerge in this matter.

MK Ge'ula Kohen Hospitalized With Chest Pains

TA0808173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen was hospitalized in Biqur Holim Hospital in Jerusalem this afternoon, after she complained of chest pains. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that Ge'ula Kohen will remain in the hospital for observation.

Commentary Analyzes Role, Functioning of Cabinet

TA0808183989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 89 p 13

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Return of the Kitchen Cabinet"]

[Text] Last Thursday the heads of our ruling system went through some difficult moments. Suddenly, the threat that U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio might be hanged became very tangible, particularly after the moving videotape in which he asked for his life to be saved. As the expiration of the ultimatum drew nearer, there was growing fear that the Bush administration would never forgive us if the man were hanged. There were even some who said that "a disaster is upon us."

Post factum it transpired that Inner Cabinet members had considered many of the potential risks during their June debate. The only thing they failed to take into account was what actually happened: The Hizballah threatened the U.S. hostages' lives, thereby threatening our relations with the United States. After the threats to hang hostages were published, THE NEW YORK TIMES defined the situation as an "Israeli inability—bordering on criminal neglect—to foresee the outcome of its policies," or, as one of our people put it that same day: "What was lacking was a second glance."

Now everyone hopes that the hostages' lives are no longer in danger. As things stand, however, there is no guarantee that Bush and his administration will be particularly grateful to us for implicating them unnecessarily in the urgent need to address a problem which cannot be overlooked, but which stands little chance of ending happily. The very fact, however, that our relations with the United States could be on the verge of a crisis as a result of an unforeseen affair reawakens several questions regarding the Cabinet's decision-making process.

This question has come up more than once in connection with other vital issues, such as the problem of who is to decide the economic policy, who is to decide how to deal with the intifadah [uprising], and who is the person who decided on the peace initiative and its components. Ministers are also troubled by these questions—including some Inner Cabinet members who make a higher number of intelligent guesses of what is happening than actual decisions regarding the future.

The body with the least say in Cabinet decisions is of course the Cabinet itself, which learned of the kidnapping only after the fact, and after ministers had heard radio reports of the event. Nevertheless, it can count its blessings, because it could have been left in ignorance even after the deed—as is known to have happened in the past. The Cabinet is, at best, a rubber stamp; in most cases, it is a debate club.

Had the 'Ubayd operation been brought before the Cabinet, there might have been a naive minister who would have wondered whether what eventually came to us as a surprise, had been contemplated at all. The decision may not have been different, but at least we would have been better prepared for the American reaction. It appears, however, that other ways of neutralizing the Cabinet exist. During the Lebanon War, for instance, the Cabinet was overburdened with operational details, which blurred the intelligence of this great entity.

The Inner Cabinet (12 members), which is supposed to be the Cabinet of the Cabinet, receives very little information; only what it needs to know in the event of failure. But in fact, even this limited body does not set any policies, nor is it seriously updated on any subject. The truly important issues arrive at the Inner Cabinet in a precooked state. Once, during a quarrel with Sharon, Shamir rationalized this situation by a fear of leaks. The actual relationship between the two parties (the neutralizing factor), and the relations between the senior ministers (mutual suspicion), have created a situation in which Shamir on one side and Rabin on the other prefer to keep their cards close to their chests. The complaints of Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i, therefore, are not based on nothing. As Inner Cabinet members, their fate does not differ from that of the other Cabinet ministers. They are not partners in the Cabinet's policy making process.

Unofficially, there is a smaller body—"the Forum of Four"—which is comprised of Shamir, Arens, Peres, and Rabin, and which convenes somewhat regularly. However, since the relations between the protagonists could provide plots for a dozen episodes of "Dynasty," the forum focuses mainly on procedural issues. Which brings us to the great enigma: Who, after all, makes the decisions? The answer is that in most fields each minister fends for himself, while Peres is an independent planet with regard to economic policies. The Cabinet is like the Russian toy containing a doll within a doll. And who is the last, smallest doll of all? Shamir and Rabin.

Shamir and Rabin have become the central axis of the Cabinet. One might say they are going steady. Their close relations are characterized by unlimited trust, with one covering for the other and neither hindering the other. They hold private meetings at least twice every week in addition to countless daily telephone calls. The braces holding them together are firm: Both are interested in the survival of the unity government and the torpedoing of any separatist move of their parties. Both would rather have Rabin than any other candidate as defense minister. Both dislike Beilin and the left wing. Both have a patriotic-nationalistic attitude to events. Both love and trust Peres to the same extent. They possess a similar vocabulary, and a similar view of how the intifadah should be dealt with. They are coordinated to the last rubber bullet. Both are sensitive with respect to the United States, but are quite in sync on the question of how to manipulate it with exhausting peace maneuvers.

Shamir and Rabin, or Rabin and Shamir—without any "second glance" regarding the need for long-range solutions for the country's central problems—are the ones who decide things.

Who would have believed that 16 years after Golda's kitchen Cabinet disappeared and everyone could start breathing, the hateful system of the kitchen regime would make a return—this time, with Yitzhaq and Yitzhaq as the "chefs."

Ben-Aharon Refutes U.S. 'Logic' on PLO

TA2807114289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 89 p 4

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Menahem Shalev "this week"; place not given]

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, was in hot water this week for speaking his mind on the effects of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. "The moment of truth is upon us," he said in an interview with the REUTER news agency, sparking private expressions of rage in his own bureau, in the Foreign Ministry, and even as far away as Washington.

In fact, Ben-Aharon only expressed publicly what is taken as an inevitable truth in most political and diplomatic circles. In both Labour and the Likud, there are many who secretly but anxiously await this "moment of truth" in the hope that it will finally unravel the yarns which are holding the government together.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST this week, Ben-Aharon repeated the same assessment, but said that he wishes to concentrate on "the substance—rather than the adjectives, which have been unjustifiably over-dramatized."

"Sooner or later the U.S.-PLO dialogue will produce results, no matter how insignificant. The U.S. will come to us with some agreement or understanding, and we, in accordance with our policy, will have to tell the Americans: this is simply irrelevant. What you have achieved with the PLO cannot have any influence whatsoever on the situation, because we are seeking an understanding with the Arabs here, and not in Tunis."

A confrontation with the U.S., says Ben-Aharon, is unavoidable.

"We cannot ignore the significance of the fact that the U.S. is talking to a terrorist organization, which prides itself on the murder of Jews to this very day. If the Senate found it appropriate to prohibit the administration—or recommend that it refrain—from talking to murderers of Americans, this is doubly true for us."

"So we have a legitimate grievance, and we are entirely justified in reacting with anger and pain."

"We won't stop trying to convince the U.S. that it is actually obstructing the peace process. There is no Arab here who will treat the diplomatic process seriously as long as he believes that the real show is going on in Tunis. They see that, despite vehement Israeli protestations, the U.S. is negotiating with the PLO."

[Shalev] But the U.S. believes that a PLO role is a prerequisite, and it is trying to convince the organization to give the residents of the territories a green light to talk to us. So by telling them to stop the dialogue, aren't you in fact saying that there won't be any peace process at all?

[Ben-Aharon] "Our logic is completely opposite to the Americans'. We say there is a chance for the process only if the PLO is not able to take charge of the process by remote control.

"If the U.S. sincerely believes that once it gets a green light from the PLO the whole process will move to the territories, then they are living under an an illusion." The other possibility, he adds, is that the U.S. knows that it is now merely engaging in tactics, and that the day will come when the PLO must enter the negotiating stage.

Ben-Aharon portrays the aims of the PLO and those of Israel as mutually exclusive and totally irreconcilable. The PLO has three targets, he says—the first, to inject itself into the process and get international legitimization; the second is the right of return; and the third is Arab sovereignty over territories—"and never mind now in what exact geographical borders."

And what are the purposes of the government's initiative? he asks. Negotiations with a representative delegation from the territories, autonomy and negotiations over the permanent settlement. "There is absolutely no chance of finding common ground with the PLO."

The legitimization of the PLO and the creation of a Palestinian state go hand in hand, Ben-Aharon says. "Yasir 'Arafat wants to believe that the day will come when he will be able to disembark at some point west of the Jordan where he will have a territory to control, and be received on a red carpet.

"This is not written in our books, and it never will be."

Thus, opposition to the PLO is necessary "by definition." There is no point in Israel putting the organization to the test. For Ben-Aharon, this is axiomatic.

Many believe that by talking to Palestinians who proclaim themselves to be acting under the auspices of the PLO, Israel is actually holding indirect contacts with the organization. "This is an inaccurate reading of reality" according to Ben-Aharon.

"You have to take into account that the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza who consider themselves to be public figures live in constant fear of terror. No matter what they really think, when they meet with Israelis they need the PLO as an insurance policy."

This is not the whole story, he adds. What the Israelis hear from the Palestinians privately "goes beyond this public parrotting of the PLO line."

The only way to get things moving, says Ben-Aharon, is to disconnect the residents of the territories from the PLO in Tunis, repeating Defence Minister Rabin's original underpinnings of the initiative—of which he himself has despaired. The U.S., says Ben-Aharon, has made this goal much harder to achieve.

[Shalev] But maybe it's an impossible goal?

[Ben-Aharon] "Sooner or later, we must tell the residents: You have two options—you can either continue with the intifadah [uprising], and be enslaved to the PLO, or you can sever your ties. We are not saying that it's easy, and we will have to help you—on the basis of your practical need to come to an arrangement with us."

[Shalev] Are you really saying that the support for the PLO is only a result of the terror, that it is not genuine?

[Ben-Aharon] "There have never been elections here, and the PLO has never been elected. These residents have never had the real, free choice between these two options. I really don't know how this can be done. I must add that free choice has never existed in Arab society. In Arab society, he who has the power rules. The PLO has signalled the residents that it has the power, so they accept it. Must we also reach the conclusion that this it, that only the PLO can rule? We thus resign ourselves to the worst kind of dictatorship, if not a second Lebanon—not to mention the consequences for the security of Israel. We would be crazy to agree to it."

"The question of the kind of regime that will exist in the territories, and our human and economic relations with it, touches our very soul. I'm not saying that we should impose democracy on them, but by the same token why should we impose the worst kind of dictatorship?"

"We can't simply accept that if they say that the PLO is their representative, this is binding on us. I don't want to be patronizing, I don't want to be their guardian and I don't want a Bantustan here. However, I am not willing to chop off my own head in order to prevent the creation of a Bantustan."

To prevent any legitimization of the PLO, Ben-Aharon also says that Israel will never negotiate with any outside Palestinians, even if they are not PLO members, as Tunis is said to have proposed. However, he is willing to consider Palestinians who have been expelled and whom the Defence Ministry might allow to return—"for then they will be residents. Once you talk to outside Palestinians, you may as well talk to the PLO... We are unable to solve the problems of outside Palestinians."

"I am afraid that the PLO will once again mislead the U.S. and we will have to have another superfluous argument with the administration."

So where are we headed? The Americans have not stopped their dialogue with the PLO, and the residents have not stopped swearing by the PLO.

"I am not saying that the government's initiative is easy to implement. It is full of mines and roadblocks. Each step has to be moderate and weighed carefully. We must forget about quick fixes. Nothing will happen without perserverance and patience."

"There will only be progress when the active elements—the U.S., the residents of the territories, we ourselves—understand that the dialogue will not achieve anything. We have to persuade the residents that they will not achieve anything through the PLO."

"I realize that this sounds a bit far-fetched today. But it's the only way, the only way that there is any hope."

Buruqin Youth Killed During IDF Raid on Suspects

TA0808200089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] An Arab youth was killed in the village of Buruqin in the Janin District today while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was carrying out operations in the village. The soldiers raided the village to detain people suspected of hostile activity. Military sources report that while people were being rounded up, one of the locals hurled a large rock at a soldier. The stone thrower was shot, sustained serious injuries, and later died of his wounds at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. [passage omitted]

Baby Dies in Settler-Army Fire Exchange

TA0908044289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpt] A 1-year-old baby has been mistakenly shot dead by Army fire in an incident on the trans-Samaria highway. The shooting took place after the child's father, an Ari'el resident, thought a firebomb was being hurled toward his car and fired his pistol. Instead, the man was actually firing at an Army patrol operating in the area. We have more from reporter Mark Weiss:

Ari'el resident Daniyel Hamtzani was travelling on the trans-Samaria highway with his two children close to Biddiya at 2130 yesterday evening when the incident occurred. Daniyel stopped his vehicle and fired a number of pistol shots in the direction of the grove by the side of the road, after he mistakenly believed that petrol bombs were being thrown at his car.

The Army spokesman said the Army patrol situated in the grove returned fire. Daniyel's son Itay, 1 and 1/2, was seriously wounded in the head. He was evacuated by helicopter to Tel Hashomer Hospital and operated on. He died this morning. The father and his 4-year-old son Ordan received light to medium wounds. The father was wounded in the shoulder and stomach and was treated at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqva. Ordan, the second son, was released from hospital and has now returned home. [passage omitted]

Update on Incidents in Territories for 7 Aug

TA0908045189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Aug 89 p 5

[Report by Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpts] Arab sources reported that 10 residents were wounded in the territories yesterday, five of whom were injured in riots which erupted as students returned home from school. Tal'at al-Masri, 27, from the Khan Yunus refugee camp, was hospitalized in critical condition at al-Nasir Hospital in Gaza after being beaten with iron bars by masked assailants. He was suspected of collaborating with the authorities. [passage omitted]

The sources said that three students and a 40-year-old woman were injured by rubber bullets in Janin. Residents of Tulkarm said that stones were hurled at soldiers by children returning home from elementary school. The soldiers fired tear gas grenades. One of the students began choking and required medical treatment, and a girl who was distributing slices of onion, which counteract the effect of the gas fumes, was arrested.

The sources added that 27-year-old Salah Da'ud, from the al-Daraj neighborhood in Gaza, was shot in the leg when troops chased him. A 14-year-old boy from Jabalyah was injured when a rubber bullet struck him in the head.

The curfew imposed on the old city of Nabulus and the Ra's al-'Ayn neighborhood following the firebomb attack on an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reserve soldier has been lifted. The curfew remained in force yesterday in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp, and in the refugee camp near Tulkarm. A curfew was also in force on Jabalyah and on the town's refugee camp because of riots which took place 2 days ago. Arab sources claimed that the Army arrested dozens of residents of the Khan Yunus refugee camp.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 8 August reports that "curfews were imposed this morning on the refugee camp in Khan Yunus" as well as "on the refugee camps in Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams and the town of Dhannabah in Samaria."]

The Army destroyed six houses yesterday in the village of Bayt Furik. The houses had been built without a license. [passage omitted]

Arab sources claim that 'Ali Salah Kattawi, a guard at the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] clinic in Gaza was taken away by plainclothes security personnel yesterday morning. The guard was put into an Arab taxi which the security men were sitting in. No explanation for his arrest was given to anyone in the clinic. The IDF spokesman replied that he had no information on the arrest of anyone by that name.

Two 12-year-old boys were hospitalized over the weekend at Tel Hashomer Hospital suffering from third-degree burns to their face, neck, and chest. The two boys, Rahd Mustafa al-Muradi and Ahmad Tawfiq al-Barah, were burned during an incident in which an Israeli bus was torched by a group of masked men. The hospital reported that their lives are still in danger.

A witness who visited the children yesterday, although they are suffering from high fever and are unconscious most of the time, said that the bus had come to the Brazil neighborhood in Gaza to collect workers whose jobs are in Israel. "All at once, several masked men, who came out of a nearby alley, approached the bus and set it on fire. The bus immediately burst into flames. Many youths and children gathered at the scene out of curiosity. Suddenly the Army was there. The soldiers began firing firing tear gas."

"One of the masked men who did not manage to flee seized the children and warned the soldiers not to approach him, otherwise he would throw the children into the fire. When the soldiers ignored his ultimatum, the masked man pushed the children into the burning bus and fled. The children shrieked as the flames consumed their clothes and hair. We jumped on them along with the soldiers and extinguished the fire with rags."

The children were transferred to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus in serious condition. From there they were taken to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. The children and their mothers claimed that contrary to eyewitness accounts, it was the soldiers who pushed them into the fire. An IDF spokesman reported yesterday that the incident is being investigated.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 August in a report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin on page 2 reports that "residents of al-Amal neighborhood of Khan Yunus claimed yesterday that border policemen erroneously shot and wounded Israeli soldiers who were wearing Arab garb while on duty. According to the report, a group of soldiers veiled with kaffiyeh's moved into the neighborhood at night, shouting 'Allahu Akbar.' They meant to stir up a local demonstration in order to identify local activists and detain them. A Border Police patrol arrived at the place and opened fire at the masked men. It soon transpired that these were soldiers. A helicopter was subsequently summoned to evacuate the casualties. Official IDF sources refused to address this report."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 8 August carries a report by 'Ezra Yanuv on page A4 adding that "following an investigation, the police and Agriculture Ministry personnel discovered approximately 450 dunams of vineyards in the Hebron and Halhul areas that were sprayed with a chemical called 2-4-D, used as a herbicide. As corroborated by anonymous telephone calls from Qiryat Arba', Jewish settlers in the area are suspected of having done this as an act of vengeance.

"A car belonging to settlers from Shilo was damaged by a firebomb. Three people were hurt. Settlers and soldiers entered the village of Turmus 'Ayya after the incident to carry out searches."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 8 August carries a report from Jerusalem by Yoram Levi on page 2, adding: "'Umar Fayiz, 37, a reporter for the Arabic service of Israel Television assigned to cover events in the territories was severely beaten near his home in the Bethlehem area 2 days ago. He was treated in the plastic surgery department of Hadassah Hospital at 'En Kerem." The report adds that "he was apparently assaulted by masked men when he returned from the home of a friend in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. They beat him all over his body, but he miraculously managed to escape. He was diagnosed at the hospital as suffering from a fractured skull, facial injuries, other bodily injuries, and one of his fingers was sprained."]

8 Aug Incidents

TA0908091089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Aug 89 p 10

[Report by Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday conducted searches and arrests in villages around Janin and Tulkarm. Residents of Kafr Dan said six villagers had been severely beaten by soldiers, and that two who had suffered fractures were hospitalized in Janin.

There were clashes between soldiers and demonstrators in several locations near Nabulus. Arab sources said that in the 'Askar refugee camp some 100 youngsters wearing shirts bearing the inscription "The Popular Army" threw stones and empty bottles on soldiers who stood facing them for almost 2 hours but did not shoot live ammunition. According to local residents, the soldiers captured some of the rioters, beat them up, and arrested them. According to an unconfirmed report, one of the rioters was shot in the head with a plastic-coated metal bullet.

The security forces clamped curfews on the Khan Yunus and Jabalyah refugee camps following a series of disturbances. Doctors in a Gaza hospital had to perform surgery on 15-year-old 'Ali Hassam al-Nazar, who had been shot by soldiers as they were dispersing disturbances, to remove his left eye.

Twenty-two-year-old 'Abd-al-Ghaba Faris from Gaza, who had been stabbed in all parts of his body on suspicion of being a collaborator, died of his wounds.

Three persons were wounded by soldiers' gunfire on 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza after they threw stones at IDF soldiers. One of them, 19-year-old Muhammad Halil, was shot in the genitals. In Rafah, 22-year-old 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Awwad was shot in the stomach. Three youngsters were lightly wounded by soldiers' gunfire in Bani Suhaylah and two others in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

The IDF spokesman said the security forces are holding 42-year-old 'Ali Salah Kattawi from Gaza who, according to Arab sources, had been kidnapped from the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] offices in the city by soldiers dressed in street clothes. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Dani Rubinstein on page 1, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 9 August notes that "five settlers from Samaria were wounded by stones near Lubban al-Sharqiyah and Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta. The IDF raided these two villages with the help of neighboring settlers and conducted searches and arrests." The report adds: "A blockade was imposed on the village of Kharbata west of Ramallah after a firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Three youngsters were wounded in Nahhalin (two of them by rubber bullets) in the course of operations initiated by the IDF. Initiated operations were also conducted in another 14 villages and refugee camps. In a raid on the village of Bil'in in Samaria IDF soldiers tried to apprehend the Arab youth who attacked his Israeli employer a week ago in the commercial zone of Holon, but failed to catch him."

In a report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin on page 2, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 August adds that "two more alleys leading to Locksmiths Street in Nabulus were sealed off, near the place from which a firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol inflicting moderate burns to its commander."]

Air Force Still Plans To Buy Apache Helicopters

TA0808181789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Even if the United States decides to shut down the production of the expensive but perfected Apache fighter helicopter, which is used by the U.S. Air Force, the Israeli Air Force will not alter its decision to purchase these helicopters in the near future. This was stated yesterday by a senior defense source.

According to him, the decision to buy 14 to 16 such fighter helicopters was made in May 1989 simultaneously with the approval of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan. The total cost of the project is about $300 million. Three different options for the purchase of the helicopters in the framework of this sum are currently being discussed. The number of helicopters to be purchased will depend on the final price of each, and on the distribution of payments, which will be drawn from the U.S. military aid funds. [passage omitted]

Another type of helicopter considered for the Air Force—the Black Hawk—which combines fighter abilities with the capacity to lead assault forces, is still included in the multiyear plan, although at this stage it is a relatively low priority item on the IDF's procurement list.

Druze Protest Obligatory Army Service

TA0808143689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Several dozen Druze demonstrated today near the 'Atlit prison in solidarity with Druze soldiers who are incarcerated there as a result of their refusal to serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and for desertion. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that the demonstrators included members of the prisoners' families, as well as members of the Druze Initiative Committee fighting against the obligatory recruitment of Druze to the IDF.

Shekel Devalued by 1.07 Percent 7 Aug

TA0808092489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 89 p 12

[Report by the economic staff]

[Text] The Bank of Israel yesterday devalued the shekel 1.07 percent against the dollar, bringing it to 1.9943, apparently in response to the sharp rises in U.S. currency in recent days. The shekel lost only 0.2 percent of its value against the currency basket, which includes the dollar and other major currencies.

Military Source on 'Missing' Conscript in South

JN0808144089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 8 Aug (PETRA)—An official military source has stated the following: Conscript Farid 'Ali Mustafa was absent from his position in the southern sector this morning. The search for him showed that he was missing. It is believed that the conscript crossed the cease-fire line to the occupied West Bank.

Paper Welcomes U.S. Involvement in Peace Process

JN0808095289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "A Stand Gaining Respect and a Policy Enjoying Credibility"]

[Text] In his meeting with the U.S. envoy yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed the constants of Jordan's stand on a variety of issues in the Middle East. King Husayn reviewed with great emphasis the principles adopted by Jordan in its stands and policies which are designed to reach a just, and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Palestine question, and thereby settle this historically abstruse conflict in this unstable region of the world.

There is no doubt that Jordan has maintained a stand which has won the respect and appreciation of world countries including the United States. Jordan's credibility and effectiveness have stemmed from its political leadership's wisdom, long experience in the region's affairs and concerns, and above all its continued abidance by the principles of justice and peace and its strong adherence to international legitimacy as well as its respect for international obligations.

Hence the appreciation of U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker for Jordan's wise and far-sighted stands, which are based on complete faith in a just and comprehensive peace in line with the principles of international legitimacy consecrated by the resolutions of the United Nations, particularly the exchange of land for peace and the impermissibility of forcible seizure of other people's land.

In light of this understanding, which is gaining the consensus of world nations, Jordan has continued to call for peace through an international conference attended by all parties involved in the conflict in the region including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, especially since the PLO has shouldered its direct responsibilities on this level and asserted serious and responsible commitment to achieve peace on the basis of the political program which was recently approved by the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

So, while we express our appreciation to President Bush's administration for its serious attention to the Middle East crisis and welcome its practical involvement in the diplomatic efforts to push the peace process forward, we hope that these efforts will not be wasted on secondary marginal issues such as the hostages issue in Lebanon, or in undermining the current U.S. efforts and turning them away from their desired course through the farce of the projected elections in the occupied territories and through Israeli maneuverings to gain time, weaken the intifadah [uprising], and continue the de facto policy which has been deeply shaken by the stones hurled by the West Bank and Gaza citizens.

Notables Discuss U.S. Mideast Policy

JN0108112589

[Editorial Report] Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 1 August publishes on pages 8 and 9 an approximately 7,000-word "Part One" of "Tuesday Roundtable" discussion with Jordanian notables Laywer Ibrahim Bakr, Husayn Mujalli, pharmacist Amin Shuqayr, Dr As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, and Eng Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah moderated by Rashid Hasan and Lamis al-Barghuthi.

Under the banner headline "The Latest in the U.S. Role To Resolve the Arab-Israeli Conflict," the paper says: "Successive U.S. Administrations throughout the past 3 decades were eager to strike at Arab rights and hopes in accordance with a comprehensive strategic course, using all visible and invisible means in alliance with the Zionist entity." The paper adds: "The United States has made the Zionist entity its sole strategic ally in the region. Moreover, it considers the Zionist entity a part of its security. It supplied it with all means of military oppression and advanced means of destruction in order to confiscate the rights of Arab and Palestinian peoples."

The paper says: "Now, in light of the valiant intifadah [uprising] which revived the Palestinian role, and in light of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, many wonder whether there are new real changes in the U.S. role to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, or whether what is being rumored or stated on occasions or through television programs on U.S. politics are merely tactics aimed at dragging the PLO to illusory solutions and at striking at the glorious intifadah, and that the U.S. constants did not and will not change."

The paper indicates that these questions will be discussed by the roundtable guests. At the beginning of the discussion, the paper raises five major points that affect the U.S. role in the region. They are the intifadah and its international repercussions, superpower detente, the U.S. secretary of state's remarks before AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] in which he said that Israel may find itself forced to talk to the PLO, as well as the U.S. decision to hold a dialogue with the PLO, U.S. blessing of Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories, and the developments of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Amin Shuqayr begins his remarks by stressing that the U.S commitment toward Israel is a constant U.S. policy based on the U.S. stand on the Arab region and Israel's role in it. He says any new changes in the U.S. stand cannot be outside the framework of Israel's existence and continuation of its role. He concludes: "Therefore, all current developments fall within the framework of what is permissible, not within the core and heart of the strategic U.S. stand on the Arab region."

Dr As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman says: "There is an unchanging U.S. stand which the Americans do not hesitate to make public. This stand stipulates supporting Israel and its existence and security. It opposes the return to the 1967 borders and rejects an independent Palestinian state. This stand supports negotiations with representatives of the residents of the occupied territories, and not with the PLO."

Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman adds: "Despite this public U.S. stand, the Americans for the first time began to ease the extremist stand which prevailed during the Reagan-Shultz era. They began to talk about the need for giving up Israel's vision of a greater Israel, that land must be exchanged for peace, and that the Palestinian legitimate political rights must be addressed."

He continues: "Based on what I have said, I believe that if Reagan and Shultz adopted the stand of the Israeli Likud, the only change that took place in the U.S. stand is that it shifted to adopting a program closer to the program adopted by the Israeli Labor Party. The U.S. stand, I believe, is still revolving within the circle of the Israeli Alignment stand. The Americans always declare that in the future they will adopt a more crystalized stand than the current one. I believe this stand will not be far from the original Reagan plan without any chance for recognizing the Palestinian state, unless the Arabs decide to adopt a stand to defend their rights that at least seeks to improve their negotiating position. It is hard to improve the Arab negotiating position. It is hard to influence the U.S. stand on Arab rights without building an intrinsic Arab force, which, regrettably, seems unforeseeable.

After stating that the official U.S. position has not changed, but has become even worse regarding its bias toward Israel, Ibrahim Bakr says: "If we pose the following question: Why does the United States urge the PLO to accept Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories? In my opinion, the reason is related to the United States' desire to destroy the PLO by destroying the intifadah, and to deprive the inhabitants of the occupied territories of the PLO's support. It is to be recalled that the disorder in the Palestinian chapter of the Camp David accords lies in the refusal to recognize the Palestinian people. Shamir's initiative is also based on the existence of a Palestinian people. Therefore, the U.S. position is a deceptive and evasive one, and seeks, through exploiting the glittering meaning of the word "elections", to entice the PLO to accept elections. This could lead to the refusal to recognize the Palestinian people and their unity. This U.S. logic is to a great extent in harmony with the Israeli logic. President Bush's Administration has not introduced any change in its policy whatsoever."

Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah says: "In fact, the U.S. position has not changed. It is characterized by hostility toward the Palestine question. I believe that this hostility will continue. If some people believe that there is a change in the U.S. position, then this change is tactical with bad staging and a bad scenario."

He adds: "I say that anyone will be misled if he one day thinks that the United States would change its strategic hostile stand toward the Palestine question, and consequently toward the Arab and Islamic causes. This U.S. stand is characterized by stupidity. This is because if the U.S. Administration scrutinizes history, it will realize that the Arab land and this Arab and Islamic nation reject strangers, and that the Zionist entity will inevitably vanish. Therefore, it is stupid for the United States to choose the friendship of the Israeli entity for a period that will not last for long against an Arab and Islamic nation that has had deep roots in this land throughout the ages."

He adds: "I do not agree with many people who say that the U.S. Administration is responsible for the hostile position toward the Palestine question. I say that the American people are basically responsible for the hostility toward the Palestine question. This is because the U.S. Congress is the outcome of the voices of the American people and the U.S. Administration is also the outcome of the voices of the American people. So, the basis is the American people. Therefore, we must not bury our heads in the sand and say that the American people have nothing to do with the hostile position toward the Palestine question. The American people are the major enemy of the Palestine question."

He adds: "I believe that the reply to the United States should be based on several principles. These are: The PLO should stop the dialogue with the United States immediately, and announce that the United States did not respond to the Palestinian peace message, which it believed could be one of the reasons that would urge the United States to change its stand. Consequently, the PLO should go back to the option of armed struggle. The Arab nation also should unhesitatingly and without embarrassment declare the state of hostility toward the United States. This should be followed by a boycott and the instillation of hatred in our sons against the United States, just as as we do against Israel with the objective of making the United States feel that the Arab nation is not humiliated. This should also be followed by an Islamic mobilization in favor of the Palestine question. We should also benefit from the international contradictions and try, by all means, to urge the USSR to maintain its stands in support of the Palestine question. The Arab regimes should also attach importance to the sound appropriation of funds. They should give funds to the sincere Arabs in the United States and Europe to form a sincere Arab and Islamic lobby, especially since the U.S. law gives full freedom for the formation of such lobbies."

Husayn Mujalli says: "In fact, before speaking about developments in the U.S. role, we should first define the U.S. role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. I believe that the constants of the U.S. role are based on entrenching Israel and supporting its expansion."

He adds: "Although I am fully convinced of the need of deepening and giving prominence to the U.S. role, especially since it is the major enemy of the Arab nation in its conflict with Zionism, I believe that the major factor in the U.S. support for Zionism is undoubtedly the intrinsic Arab problems which constitute the strongest weapon in the hands of Israel and the United States to defeat the Arab nation. In this regard, I stress that friends and enemies alike do not pay attention to the weak. We should take this issue into consideration whether in the age of international detente or during the cold war that preceded it between the two superpowers. Had we been a giant in the age of giants, we would have been able to exploit the international detente and the cold war. We must be aware of the fact that victory begins on our land and that struggle is basically self-struggle. We have examples on this in our heritage."

Financial Assistance From Gulf States Received

JN0808151489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan yesterday received $70 million, $40 million of which is from Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and the rest from the prince of Dubai, Shaykh Rashid Ibn-Maktum. With this sum, Jordan's foreign currency assets rose to approximately $500 million after dropping to only $20 million 3 months ago.

Since the new government was formed in April, Amman has received $50 million from Iraq, $40 million from Kuwait, and $20 million from Oman. Last week, it received $200 million from Saudi Arabia, which also promised to deposit, interest-free, $1 billion in the Central Bank of Jordan to help the country overcome its current economic crisis.

Financial asistance to Jordan will be the central topic in the talks that Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir and his deputy, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, will hold in Kuwait and Qatar. Our radio has learned that Jordan will propose that the Gulf states pay $450 million to Jordan in return for Iraq's debts to Jordan, on the condition that this sum will be repaid from the installments that Iraq is now paying monthly to Jordan. Currently, Iraq is paying Jordan $15 million each month for commodities and services it imported from Jordan during the Gulf war.

Kuwait is expected to follow the Saudi step and deposit between $150 million and $200 million in the Central Bank of Jordan.

In another development, it was officially announced in Amman that the Jordanian Government agreed to the request of the Palestine National Fund, the PLO's Ministry of Finance, to transfer its seat to the Jordanian capital.

Ministry Official on West Bank Citizens' Cards

JN0508094889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 89 pp 1, 22

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Excerpts] Muhammad Majid al-'Adwan, director of the Follow-Up and Inspection Department at the Interior Ministry, has announced that the instructions of the interior minister have allowed the wives of residents who carry yellow cards or those who do not carry bridge cards to change their cards from green to yellow. And this, he added, applies to children who are minors. He said: With regard to those who are wanted for the flag service [military service] and whose yellow cards were replaced by the green ones in accordance with the General Mobilization Directorate's instructions, the interior minister's instructions allow them to retrieve the yellow cards which they once carried.

Al-'Adwan added: With regard to the sons of the East Bank of Jordanian origin who are residing in the West Bank, the interior minister's instructions call for granting them 5-year passports and changing their green cards to yellow ones by referring to the Civil Status and Passport Department to this effect.

Al-'Adwan said: The interior minister's instructions call for exchanging green for yellow cards for those to whom the conditions of residence outside the West Bank applied before 1 June 1983 and who were mistakenly given green cards by the bridges' security posts.

Al-'Adawan affirmed that we always try to implement the instructions stemming from the disengagement decision in a way that is convenient for the citizens so that the spirit of the disengagement decision will be carried out in the interest of the citizen and his future.

Al-'Adwan noted that the instructions on moving students from the West Bank to the East Bank allow the movement of students under coercive conditions only. He added that his department will not allow, in light of these instructions, the emigration of students from the East Bank to the West Bank even if the students are given a transfer permit from their schools in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Al-'Adwan added that the congestion at the bridges that takes place every year is caused and planned by the Israeli occupation authorities as a way to increase the tribulation of the West Bank citizens. These authorities do not respect the agreements signed with the treaty commission on allowing 4,000 citizens into the West Bank daily across the King Husayn and Prince Muhammad Bridges. He added that the occupation authorities resort to indiscriminate methods and feeble pretexts—particularly in the summer season when a large number of people visit the West Bank—to prevent the entry of the citizens who are registered at the registration centers. Consequently, the citizens will continue to suffer from these repressive measures while all facilities are provided by the [Jordanian] departments concerned.

Al-'Adwan urged those who carry travel permits [issued by Israel] to renew them and maintain their validity so that they will not lose their right to citizenship. He noted that the failure to renew these permits will result in losing the right to return to the West Bank. And the Follow-Up and Inspection Department will carry out a number of measures, including the following-up of holders of invalid permits.

Al-'Adwan added that all citizens leaving for the West Bank should bring with them those registered in the permit issued by the Israeli occupation authorities and in the bridge cards. He added that the instructions issued by the Interior Ministry to the bridges' security posts prevent the permit holders from passing to the West Bank if not accompanied by the companions registered in the permit so that they will not lose the right to reside in the West Bank.

Officials on Effects of Water Scarcity on Farming

JN0608113289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Excerpts] The effects of last winter's low rainfall and frost waves were not confined to the agricultural products of that period, but continue until now. No vegetables can be grown in the northern Jordan valley this season, which begins early this month, due to the scarcity of water.

A number of northern Jordan valley farmers have complained to SAWT AL-SHA'B that the Jordan valley Authority is preventing them from planting vegetables this season because of its inability to supply them with water.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, Agriculture Minister 'Adnan Badran said the Ministry has been notified about the suspension of the summer season in order to conserve the scarce water supplies to irrigate trees as the country is facing a water shortage caused by drought, the low level of the al-Yarmuk river, and the need to secure drinking water for the capital.

Badran said we are experiencing a difficult situation and that what is happening is the result of water shortage, and not within an agricultural plan.

He said the current failure to plant vegetables will affect the vegetable market in the future, but not significantly, as all the currently available vegetables are grown on the slopes overlooking the Jordan valley, and not in the Jordan valley itself. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr Muhammad Bani-Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, explained that the authority had asked farmers to delay planting vegetables until the second half of this month so as to enable the authority to study the water situation and specify the amounts of available water and the ability to irrigate new fields. He said we are trying to avoid the current period because of high temperatures, which exacerbate the water issue. [passage omitted]

Car Bomb Explodes Near Israeli Convoy

NC0908075389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0732 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Here is a news flash: According to security sources, a booby trapped car exploded at 0930 today when an Israeli army convoy was passing on the road between Marj 'Uyun and the crossing point to Israel at Kafr Kila inside the security strip. The sources said that the convoy consisted of military jeeps and armored vehicles and that the explosion occured at 0930. The sources added that it is not yet known whether the car was driven by a suicidal fedayee nor are there details about any Israeli casualties.

Group Claims Responsibility

NC0908090389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpts] A booby-trapped car exploded this morning as an Israeli military convoy was passing on the Marj 'Uyun-Kafr Kila road. [passage omitted] According to initial reports, the blast left three people wounded: An Israeli officer, an Israeli soldier, and a soldier from the South Lebanese Army.

A group calling itself Al-Husayn Sons [abna' al-Husayn] claimed responsibility for the operation, saying that it left a large number of Israelis killed or wounded. The group issued a statement saying: We pledge to Imam al-Husayn [the prophet's grandson] and Imam Khamene'i that we will follow the path until victory or death.

Further on Bombing

NC0908095389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] The man driving a booby-trapped car was killed when it exploded this morning during a suicide attack on an Israeli convoy on the al-Qulay'ah-Kafr Kila road this morning. Five Israeli military men were also injured, according to preliminary information. The blast damaged several cars and Israeli military vehicles and caused a crater 2 meters wide and 1 ½ meters deep. The blast is thought to have been caused by approximately 150 kg of high explosives.

The South Lebanese Army immediately closed all roads in the area and began an extensive search. All crossing points into the security strip have also been closed.

According to AFP, one Israeli serviceman was killed and two others wounded in the explosion.

The Islamic resistance said that it carried out the operation as a gift of 'Ashura' [day of martyrdom of the prophet's grandson Imam al-Husayn], a token of loyalty to Imam Khomeyni, and a pledge of allegiance to his successor Imam Khamene'i. The Islamic resistance said that fires broke out in the site of the explosion and that Israeli military helicopters flew overhead in the area. The Islamic resistance added that the Israelis massed their troops in the area and closed the roads. According to a statement by the Islamic resistance, an Israeli helicopter landed at the Marj 'Uyun hospital around 1100 today.

Senior Israeli Officer Said Killed

NC0908102889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Excerpt] An Islamic resistance fighter carried out a new heroic suicide operation this morning against a Zionist enemy army convoy in the Marj 'Uyun area in the occupied border strip.

We have received a preliminary statement from the Islamic resistance operations room. The statement said:

The Islamic resistance's gift on the anniversary of 'Ashura' to Imam Khomeyni, whose memory is sacred, is this operation of loyalty and allegiance, loyalty to the line of Imam Khomeyni and allegiance to his successor Imam Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. The Islamic resistance carried out a suicide operation at 0945 today in the Marj 'Uyun area against a large Zionist enemy convoy.

According to new information on this heroic operation of martyrdom, the Islamic resistance operation room said that a mujahid attacked with his pure body the enemy vehicles and tanks at around 0945 today at the entrance of al-Qulay'ah at the heart of the enemies' den and a big explosion was heard.

At 0948, black smoke billowed and the occupation forces began to mass their troops while helicopters flew sorties over the area.

At 1005, the occupation forces began to pull the bodies of their soldiers from the burning tanks and place them along both sides of the road.

At 1050, a huge military transport plane landed at the Marj 'Uyun barracks.

At 1103, Zionist military helicopters were still flying intensive sorties over the area of the explosion.

At 1125, a helicopter landed at the Marj 'Uyun hospital grounds and began to unload the bodies of the dead and injured Zionists. Clouds of smoke continue to billow from the site of the explosion.

REUTER cited citizens in the security strip as saying that the booby-trapped car exploded when an Israeli army convoy was passing along the road between Marj 'Uyun and the so-called good fence. The convoy consisted of military jeeps, armored vehicles, and personnel carriers. Foreign media have cited security sources as saying that the explosion injured five Israeli soldiers, three of them critically, while a number of other persons were killed or wounded. These sources added that the explosion left behind a crater 2 meters deep.

AFP reported that, according to preliminary information, the operation resulted in the death of a high-ranking Zionist officer and the wounding of 10 others. It said that the explosive used was 150 kg of TNT. [passage omitted]

A state of maximum alert has been declared in the ranks of the occupation army and the agent Lahd militia which has started a large-scale campaign of arrests among the citizens.

At 0300 today, Islamic resistance fighters had repelled three Zionist enemy vehicles which were trying to advance toward Hill 910 from al-Ahmadiyah position in western al-Biqa'. The resistance fired eight shells, forcing the enemy vehicles to retreat.

Paper on Israeli Plan To Kidnap Key Figures

NC0808153289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] In Abu Dhabi, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today revealed an Israeli plan to kidnap a number of the leaders of Lebanese organizations that are opposed to Israel. It said that the plan will be implemented in a manner similar to the abduction of Jibshit Imam Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. The newspaper added that a joint British-U.S. committee charged with following up the hostage crisis in Lebanon has submitted a report about this plan to the British and U.S. Governments.

'Diplomatic Sources' Cited on Israeli Hostages

NC0808145589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have revealed that one of the three Israeli soldiers being held by Shiite organizations in Lebanon could have died a long time ago as a result of wounds he received during the kidnapping operation.

The sources added that Amal Movement's claim that it is holding another soldier is untrue because this soldier is held by the Islamic Amal Movement. The sources expressed their conviction that the hostage issue will continue for a long time for two reasons: The dispute in Iran between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian radicals, and Syria's desire to play the role of mediator so as to exploit this role in strengthening its position in Lebanon.

British Envoy Says Hostages Moved to Al-Biqa'

NC0808203489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] British Ambassador in Beirut Allan John Ramsey has said that most of the Western hostages may have been moved to al-Biqa' plain, where the shelling is less than in West Beirut or the southern suburbs of the capital.

In statements to British Independent Television Network, he said he has reasons to believe that the hostages, including four Britons, may have been transferred to al-Biqa' to avoid any harm to them by the intensive bombardment in view of their value to their abductors.

Commenting on reports that the British hostages are dead, Ramsey said: We have some evidence that they are alive.

Hizballah's Fadlallah Cited on Higgins' Death

LD0808141689 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 8 IRNA—A prominent Lebanese religious leader said Tuesday [8 August] that military operations should be halted in the war torn country in order to put an end to the present chaos. 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah termed the present situation in Lebanon as very critical.

Commenting on the Zionist regime's military operations against Lebanon, he said the recent abduction of Friday prayer leader of Jibshit, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was an insult to the territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon. One consequence of the terrorist move, he said, was the death of American hostage Col. William Higgins.

Fadlallah also criticized the Arab tripartite committee formed to solve the Lebanese crisis and accused it of trying to internationalize the issue rather than finding a peaceful solution to it.

Amal, Hizballah Battle Against 'Zionists' Noted

LD0708173389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Amal Movement declared: The closeness of relations between itself and the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah will lead, in the near future, to joint military operations against the Zionist occupiers. The official in charge of the publicity section of the Amal Movement in South Lebanon added to this announcement: The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd by the aggressor forces of the Zionist regime was carried out with the aim of kindling the flames of a new sedition between Amal and Hizballah. But the alertness of the officials of these two groups and steadfastness at the mediatory efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran will foil the plans of the Zionists and, in its place, will prepare the grounds for confrontation with the occupying Zionists.

This official was speaking at the ceremony of the 7th day [of mourning after the killing] of one of the revolutionary Muslims of Lebanon who was martyred in the process of the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd by the forces of the Zionist regime and he emphasized: The joint battle of the Hizballah revolutionary and Amal Movement against the Zionists has commenced. [passage omitted]

Hizballah, Amal Meet, Voice Support for Khamene'i

LD0308132689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] As the first practical step for creating an agreement between the Lebanese revolutionary Hizballah Movement and the Amal Movement, a joint council of both movements met in West al-Biqa', after visiting villages of (Soqmur) and (Mashkhareh) and convening a session with representative from both parties of those villages.

IRNA reports that at this session both sides stressed their full obedience to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic Republic of Iran and the jurisconsult vice regency [vali-e faqih] of the worlds Muslims. They further stressed the necessity for unity in confronting the regime occupying Jerusalem, and its mercenaries in Lebanon.

The revolutionary Hizballah Movement and the Amal Movement also pointed to the ending of clashes among themselves, stressing that the weapons of both groups will now only point at Israel. In conclusion, both parties expressed hope that cooperation and consultations between the two groups will develop, and that they will further evolve their truce.

Hizballah, Abu-Nidal Group on Consolidation

NC0908082589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Hizballah and the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council [led by Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal] have reiterated the need to liberate all the occupied territories, end all forms of the loathsome occupation, and escalate the joint revolutionary struggle through the activities of both the heroes of the intifadah [uprising] in Palestine and the mujahidin of Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa'.

This was announced during a visit by a delegation from the Fatah Movement-Revolutionary Council to the Hizballah Shura headquarters yesterday. The delegation comprised brothers Mansur Hamdan, Walid Khalid, and Yunus 'Umran.

Hizballah and Fatah officials discussed a number of issues of common interest during the visit. The movement delegation expressed its condemnation of the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, expressing its full support for Hizballah in the face of all U.S.-backed Zionist acts of piracy and terror.

Officials on both sides expressed identical opinions concerning rejection of all dialogue with Americans and Zionists and of all proposals for a settlement. The two sides agreed on consolidating the resistance to the U.S. and Zionist onslaught. They also called on all Islamic and national forces to close ranks in the face of this onslaught.

'Unknown Group' Threatens Saudi Rulers

NC0908070589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] In Beirut, a hitherto unknown group has threatened the Al Sa'ud rulers of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and demanded the Government of Hijaz release the Kuwaitis who were arrested on charges of disrupting security in Mecca last July.

The Cells of Martyr Walid al-Musa [Khalaya al-Shahid Walid al-Musa] have said in a statement that unless the prisoners are released within 1 week, their group will retaliate against the sons of the decadent princes who live outside Hijaz and whose corruption and licentiousness have brought shame and scandal to their people and country.

The group also assailed the Al Sabah ruling family of Kuwait for their failure to press for the release of the Kuwaiti detainees.

'Text' of 'Awn's April Message to Gorbachev

NC0708102889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The text of the message which Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn sent to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on 17 April was distributed today. The message was part of Lebanese efforts to stand up to Syrian terrorism and the destructive acts committed by the Syrian troops against the Lebanese, using Soviet arms. The text of the message follows:

Mr President Mikhail Gorbachev: Through your embassy in Beirut, you are undoubtedly aware of the details of current incidents in Lebanon and the conspiracy targeted against its existence, unity, sovereignty, and its basic structure of life.

The weapons supplied by the friendly Soviet Union to every person who has a right and seeks to defend his people or to restore his usurped land, have never been pointed at the peoples' rights or used to destroy civilizations or enslave nations.

What the Syrian regime is doing in Beirut and other Lebanese cities today recalls to mind what the Nazi invaders did to brave Stalingrad.

Nobody can deny that your wise and open leadership always knows how to take stands to support people who are standing fast in the face of aggression and in seeking to liberate their land, foil the scheme to partition and distribute their soil, and prevent a solution to the rightful and just Palestinian problem at the expense of the Lebanese rights and higher interests.

Therefore, and out of our absolute faith in and strong conviction about the credibility of the Soviet stand, which has always backed the vulnerable and the oppressed, we appeal to you to take the action you find appropriate to help our people save their own existence and unity, liberate their soil, and bring about the full withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from the Lebanese territories.

The problem in Lebanon is not, as some try to portray it, among Lebanese. What is happening in Lebanon is nothing more than a cover up for a foreign scheme which is being implemented by regional and domestic tools.

In any case, judging by your wisdom and the credibility of your well-known stands, we are convinced that you will not allow history to record that the great Soviet people stand idle when there is a conspiracy to annihilate a people and destroy a homeland with Soviet arms.

Hoping that we can establish good friendly relations between our two peoples in your blissful reign, please accept our sincere friendly feelings.

[Signed] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn

PSP Comments on Message

NC0808142689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Commenting on the message which Michel 'Awn, leader of al-Yarzah's military clique, addressed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Secretariat has issued the following statement:

The leader of al-Yarzah's military clique refers to a conspiracy which is directed against Lebanon, the unity of its territory and people, and its basic resources. While he is currently the tool of this conspiracy, he forgets who began this destructive war which has been sweeping through Lebanon since 13 April 1975, who established links and relations with Israel, and who implemented the Zionist schemes to fragment the region into racist and confessional statelets that would be a justification for Israel's own establishment, and who invited the Israeli enemy to the heart of the capital.

Today, he insolently announces his readiness to revive the al-Naqurah negotiations prior to signing another agreement of submission similar to the 17 May accord as a prelude to turning Lebanon into an isolationist homeland and an Israeli colonialist protectorate, particularly as the links that 'Awn and al-Yarzah clique have with Western colonialist and intelligence quarters are well known. He further refers to a Stalingrad in Beirut and other Lebanese cities.

Meanwhile West Beirut, the southern suburb, 'Alayh, Baysur, al-Shuwayfat, and the mountain villages have turned into true Stalingrads as a result of the destructive bombardment carried out by 'Awn's gangs, who are using various types of weapons supplied by suspect sources.

He who is threatened or subdued does not daily speak of his destructive and so-called liberation intentions, and he who demands that the world not remain silent about the conspiracy to exterminate a people does not threaten to destroy Beirut for the ninth time or to burn the world.

The PSP Secretariat statement adds: The intentional and continuing attempt to obscure the internal conflict and portray the crisis as one between the Lebanese and Palestinians at one time or between the Lebanese and Syrians at another time—and perhaps between the Lebanese and Iraqis tomorrow—is merely a maneuver to avoid enacting the political reforms which have become a basically accepted principle in order to embark on a political solution in addition to attaining a final settlement regarding Lebanon's Arab affiliation.

The only possible solution for the continuing crisis in Lebanon is to establish a just and democratic system that is based on true equality among the citizens and to eliminate the explosive Israeli factor. This can be done only by the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army from the south and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The USSR continues to rank among those parties seeking to assist Lebanon to implement that UN Security Council resolution and to limit colonialist and Zionist pressures with the aim of attaining Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. We do not believe that the USSR is unaware of nationalist aspirations in light of its being the upholder of peoples' rights for peace, justice, and liberty. In the final count, Michel 'Awn is merely a usurper of power and a major criminal, like the Nazi war criminals, even if he falsely calls himself chairman of the Council of Ministers.

'Awn To Continue War Against 'Syrian Occupier'

PM0708150689 Paris LE MONDE in French 6-7 Aug 89 p 3

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "Gen 'Awn Reaffirms His Determination To Continue 'War Against Syrian Occupier'"]

[Text] Beirut—This new outburst of violence comes 4 days after the publication of the report by the Arab tripartite committee concluding that its mission has been a virtual failure because of disagreements with Syria on Lebanon's sovereignty an the future of its relations with Beirut.

Although there has been no direct reaction in Damascus to the publication of this document, it is thought in Beirut that President Hafiz al-Asad's speech to Americans of Arab origin will be the only reply.

"Syria will not allow the Israeli plot to succeed in Lebanon," the Syrian president said before adding: "We have never supported one Lebanese faction against another. The constant factor in the Syrian attitude is help for our Lebanese brothers to achieve national accord for a solution which safeguards Lebanon's unity and its Arab nature and helps to liberate its territory."

On the spot, reliable sources reaffirm that Damascus has recently given new arms supplies to the Lebanese Army brigades controlled by Salim al-Huss' Muslim government. The Syrian Army has apparently also increased its military capabilities and has reorganized all its forces in Beirut where two battalions of the Syrian Army elite corps "special forces" have apparently arrived.

Damascus' Lebanese allies are at present jointly studying a reply to the tripartite committee in which they will emphasize the "partiality" of the report which, they stress, does not condemn Iraqi reinforcements to the Christian camp and demands a timetable for a Syrian withdrawal without doing likewise for Israel. Meanwhile, their militia are returning to Beirut in limited numbers and in places they are resuming their positions on the demarcation line which separates Beirut's two sectors—Christian and Muslim.

The same circles do not rule out the fact that Saudi King Fahd, who ratified the ministerial committee's report but without receiving the ministers, contrary to Moroccan King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, might once again attempt a mediation.

They also think that France played a role, recalling in this respect the meeting which Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had with King Hassan II several days before the report's publication.

The Christian Camp's Modesty in Triumph

The Christian camp is modest in its triumph and is adopting a cautious attitude. General Michel 'Awn, the leader of the Christian military government, told us: "The committee has published its verdict. Syria is unwilling to recognize Lebanon as a sovereign state, that is the essential thing. It has used every possible maneuver to control Lebanon and the Arabs have now pushed it into a corner." However, Gen 'Awn, calm in his underground office in B'abda palace, which is still open to all weather, added: "I expect the Arabs to state things more clearly and to take measures."

Almost 5 months after the start of his "liberation war against the Syrian occupier" on 14 March, Gen 'Awn has not lost any of his determination and is not displeased at having proved to the world his "ability to stand firm." It is true that, from this viewpoint, he has already succeeded. "Our holy war," Gen 'Awn stated, "had three objectives: To recover our rights as a sovereign state, to combat terrorism, and to combat drugs. It will not stop until we have attained them."

When will that be? Gen 'Awn did not venture to predict when it will be, although he said that the coming army festival will be a day of rebuilding. "I am in the homestretch," he explained. "Our liberation war is continuing and it will take a fiercer form with the increase in acts of resistance in the occupied zones (although they have so far been rare) [LE MONDE editor's note]. The Syrians will soon be on the defensive. I promise them that in advance."

Severe Attitude Toward Western Countries

In this connection, the possibility of commando operations by the two camps is not being ruled out in Beirut. "The war on drugs is going to be launched," Gen 'Awn added, "as is the war on terrorism." In this connection, the head of the Christian government adopted a severe attitude toward the Western countries and particularly the United States which, he said, is playing "a double game, publicly condemning terrorism and supporting a terrorist state like Syria. Only a stable Lebanon under a legal authority which shoulders its responsibilities can save Cicippio."

What is the explanation for the violence of last week's bombardments? "The Syrians are to blame for that," Gen 'Awn replied although he asserted that in future his artillery will reply shot for shot. "At one time," he said, "I wanted to show the Syrians' bad faith. I sent reports to the United Nations and the Arab League every day. Nobody protested. When there is a response, everybody starts calling for moderation."

Why has the Lebanese Forces' Christian militia played such a major role in several of the blind bombardments of Muslim West Beirut when the army had kept control of the fire for a long time? "I would not have lost that control if there had been a single protest against the bombardment of the liberated zones," Gen 'Awn replied. "When the Syrians bombard the regions of Juniyah, Jubayl, and the whole coast (under the Lebanese Forces' control) they are forced to respond to keep up the population's morale. I cannot wage war inside the Christian sector to protect the other region when we are being bombarded. Everybody has helped to create this atmosphere. We are being forced to wage this kind of war."

How long can the Lebanese tolerate this situation? "Either people have to kick the Syrians out of their country or they must suffer the consequences. A country can only be liberated by resistance. Salim al-Huss thinks that he can liberate the country by having discussions with the Syrians; why does he want to be a historical exception?" Gen 'Awn simply asked.

Paper Criticizes Arab Committee's Report

JN0808113289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirmed that the report of the tripartite Arab committee, which has disappointed the majority of Lebanese and Arab citizens, will not change the facts of the crisis in Lebanon.

The paper said that Lebanon will never become a second Israel and that the isolationist scheme will not survive under any guise or slogan.

The paper adds: The campaigns of lies and deception against Syria will not affect its decisive Arab and regional role. Syria will remain a large obstacle in the way of all old and new colonial maneuverings in the region.

The paper affirmed that the report seeks to Arabize the isolationist scheme and give it an Arab garb instead of Arabizing and promoting the solution in Lebanon.

The paper says: Syria, which has offered many sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon and extended honorable help to the present Arab committee, is seen by the report as responsible for the continuation of the crisis and therefore is not worthy of appreciation. Yet, gratitude is lavished on those who disrupted the role of the committee and brought its efforts to a halt.

The paper expressed astonishment at the praise lavished on the dictator's regime in Baghdad, which has encouraged the escalation of the civil war in Lebanon and provided Israel's agents with means of murder and destruction.

The paper wonders: Since the report was prepared to describe the situation in Lebanon and diagnose its ailments, why did the report fail to refer to Israel which has participated in creating and escalating the Lebanese crisis?

The paper concludes: Thus, in all simplicity, a thick curtain is drawn on Israel's crimes in Lebanon, a thick fog is created to cover the bestial practices of Baghdad's dictator, and dust is thrown in the eyes to conceal the crimes of the little general [Michel 'Awn] against Lebanon and its people.

Commentary Faults Report

JN0808160889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the statement made by the foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee on their efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis has aroused a number of reactions of astonishment and wonder, because it contains many political fallacies and ignores the positions of the isolationist clique, its protectors, and its arms suppliers. This not only conflicts with the facts in fraternal Lebanon, but also conflicts with the resolution of the Casablanca extraordinary summit conference on Lebanon. It also clearly deviates from the mechanism adopted by the Arab summit to save Lebanon from its ordeal.

Although the statement deals with the issue of the sieges, it ignores the fact that it is 'Awn himself who has imposed these sieges and who has established a naval and air operations theatre to encircle the nationalist areas. This has prompted the Lebanese nationalist forces to take the necessary steps to defend the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people. But out of their eagerness to render the Arab tripartite's efforts a success, these forces have reopened the crossing points unilaterally, and they have not asked for more than the monitoring of the ports controlled by 'Awn's clique in order to halt the flow of weapons from the Iraqi regime and Israel. The kinfolk in the eastern areas do not need these weapons, while efforts are under way to implement suitable political solutions through the application of the Casablanca summit resolution.

The nationalist forces have lifted the relief and human siege in the eastern areas, because they do not want to punish a part of the Lebnanese people—a part which is suffering from 'Awn's terrorism just as the other Lebanese areas are suffering. 'Awn answered this positive step by escalating military operations and the criminal shelling of most Lebanese areas, using the weapons the Iraqi regime has supplied and exploiting the facilities provided by the Israeli enemy. These two sides have found a Lebanese local tool in 'Awn to carry out their plan to partition and fragment Lebanon.

The contents of the committee's statement about the presence and role of the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon are viewed as at least as hostile to the Lebanese people and their aspirations, because the Syrian Arab Army, which, along with the Lebanese people and their brave resistance, confronted the Zionist invasion of the Lebanese territories, made great sacrifices to preserve Lebanon's unity, and which prevented Lebanon's fall into Zionist clutches through the humiliating 17 May agreement, has always remained the subject of pride of all the Arab masses. This Army's sacrifices, bravery, and the noble pan-Arab role it has played on behalf of the entire Arab nation should not be distorted.

Here we have to ask the following questions: Do they want us to leave the Lebanese nationalists and Islamic forces with their backs exposed to Israel and its tools? Should the Lebanese people, who have launched the brave national resistance and who fought Israel with bullets, boiling oil, and bare chests until they forced the enemy to withdraw humiliated from steadfast Beirut, be punished? How can the Israeli tools, who played the role of a policeman for the invading enemy forces, be eager to preserve Lebanon's unity and sovereignty, while the resistance men and their heroes, who have turned into human bombs and competed for martyrtdom, become enemies of Lebanon and its Arabism and sovereignty?

The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, except for a handful of isolationist agents, feels bitter and disappointed. This feeling can be justified, because the Lebanese people, who made the greatest sacrifices to defend Lebanon and its Arabism, did not believe that the Casablanca summit resolution could be changed or interpreted in accordance with the wishes of the agent tools. The Lebanese people expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the Casablanca summit, because they strongly believed that the Arab committee would support the Arab solution and efforts to achieve justice and equality for all the Lebanese people.

Therefore, we are not surprised by the joy of the enemies of the Lebanese people like 'Awn, Saddam, and the Zionist entity over the fate of the efforts of the Arab committee. These parties wanted the committee to reach its deadline, although only a third of the time limit has passed. However, there is still much time. From the beginning, the parties to the conspiracy tried to foil the Arab solution and the Casablanca summit resolution in order to internationalize the Lebanese crisis—an internationalization which constitutes another plot to partition Lebanon and establish another Israel.

There are facts, which should be understood by all parties involved in the Lebanese crisis. First, 'Awn who has usurped power only represents his personal ambitions, and he is, and will remain, an obstacle to any solution. Moreover, no dialogue can be held with him because of these ambitions. Second, Israel and the rancorous Saddam regime are using this power maniac to carry out their conspiracies. Third, the Lebanese nationalist forces represent the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people and are more eager to preserve Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

Without taking these facts into account, no progress can be made to solve the Lebanese problem. Moreover, any indifference to these facts—that have been proved by developments in Lebanon—will only lead to the suicidal project aimed at Lebanon and through it at the entire Arab nation. No honest Arab can tolerate the repetition of the tragedy of Palestine. The Lebanese people want the Arabs to support the Arab nation's higher interests, and they will continue their struggle to liberate Lebanon from the Israeli enemy and its agents and to achieve national accord and the desired reform. The Lebanese people will continue to enjoy Syria's strong support until they achieve the goals of their just struggle in order to serve all factions and areas in Lebanon as well as the Arab nation and its future and destiny.

Al-Zu'bi Cables Ryzhkov on Forming Government

JN0908115389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has sent a cable of congratulations to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, on forming a new Soviet Government. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of the formation of a new government in the Soviet Union under your premiership, I am pleased to send you on behalf of the Syrian Government and in my own name my heartfealt congratulations on winning the great confidence of the Soviet leadership and people.

I am confident that the genuine, close relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, governments, and friendly nations will remain strong on the basis of their concepts and deep-rooted traditions and will epitomize in all areas of cooperation the goals that the two friendly countries struggle to achieve and promote. Comrade Ryzhkov, I wish you every success in carrying out your duty, and I also wish the friendly Soviet people every progress, strength, and prosperity.

Government Employees Fired on Corruption Charges

JN0908080489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus—It was announced in Damascus last night that the Syrian Government has dismissed some 47 government employees on charges of corruption. The Syrian Government inspection authority announced that these employees were fired due to their misconduct and lack of integrity. No further details were given.

Similar measures were previously taken in Syria against public sector employees accused of stealing state funds, fraud, smuggling, and dereliction of duty.

Afghanistan

Kabul Explosions Noted; Ammunition Dump Shelled

BK0808160289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 8 (AFP)—Massive explosions rocked central Kabul Tuesday night as informed sources said an ammunition dump in the northern suburb of Khaikhanna had been hit by a missile.

Residents reached by telephone said shells were raining down on central Shari Nau and Wazir Akhbar Khan districts.

From the central Kabul hotel, the northern sky was lit by a garish red glow and a series of flashes.

The explosions started about 6:45 p.m. (1445 GMT) and were continuing in a furious barrage at 8:00 p.m. (1530 GMT). Shells of unknown caliber could be heard impacting not far from the hotel.

Reliable sources said a missile had hit the Khaikhanna dump which had begun exploding.

There was no immediate official comment on the explosions or confirmation that the dump had been hit.

Further on Explosion

BK0908025089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] An ammunition depot caught fire in Kabul last night, resulting in continuous and powerful explosions in the city for several hours. Reports say a missile targeted the depot. Another report says a number of people were injured.

The Afghan mujahidin have been attacking the Afghan capital, Kabul, for several days. According to reports the mujahidin destroyed an ammunition depot in an attack on (Qalabalahissar) in Kondus Province. They also attacked a military convoy of the Kabul regime on Mazar-e Sharif Highway, killing eight Khad extremists and damaging two tanks.

AFP Reports Details

BK0908030089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 8 (AFP)—Massive explosions rocked northwestern and central Kabul Tuesday [8 August] night as an ammunition dump blew up and rained live shells over a wide area in the rocket-plagued Afghan capital.

Authoritative sources said the ammunition depot in Khaikhanna District on the northwest edge of the capital city was hit by a missile and caught fire at about 6:45 p.m. (1415 GMT).

Residents could see the night sky lit a garish red and the dump spewed exploding ammunition into the night sky and onto the city for more than three hours.

Some of the shells also rained down on central Wazir Akhbar Khan and Shari Nau Districts. There was no immediate indication of casualties in the dump explosion.

Worst hit appeared to be Khaikhanna, a sprawling suburb sometimes known as container city because of the number of refugees who have built houses out of metal shipping containers.

Military experts said they believed incoming rockets were mingled with exploding rounds from the dump.

Shortly before 9:00 p.m. (1630 GMT), electricity throughout the center of the city was cut off for about 30 minutes adding to the confusion.

The dump explosion was the second in rocket-plagued Kabul in less than a month. In mid-July an ammuntion depot near the city's airport, which serves both military and civilian planes, exploded.

There was no immediate indication of whether Tuesday's dump blast was caused by mujahidin rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government here.

Until the evening explosions, the day had been relatively quiet in Kabul, with a sole rocket reportedly falling on the city Tuesday morning, causing no casualties.

(Radio Kabul, in a report monitored in Islamabad, said Tuesday that rebel rocketing from Friday to Monday killed 46 people and injured 78, adding that they had attacked Kabul with at least 185 rockets in that four-day period.)

On Monday, some 37 missiles fell on the city, hitting the Soviet Embassy and the luxury Intercontinental Hotel.

(Missiles since Friday have also damaged the capital's main wheat silo, several office buildings and shopping centres, while destroying 22 houses, the radio said.

(The radio added that Afghanistan also warned Pakistan on Tuesday of the "serious consequences of supplying sophisticated weaponry" to the Afghan mujahidin.

(Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where he was given the warning and told that the guerrillas had adopted a "new tactic of attacking cities," it said.

(Blaming Pakistan for "shipment of destructive weapons including rockets to a small group of extremests guerrillas for killing of the Afghan people" it said the spur in rocketing was the result of "Pakistan's increased interference" in Afghanistan, the radio said.)

Pakistan, along with the United States, are the main backers of the mujahidin.

Government Spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani announced Tuesday that the armed forces had launched an operation in Pagman, west of Kabul, to flush out some 80 to 100 mujahidin held responsible for some of the intense rocketing of Kabul over the past 40 days.

He said the operation had begun Monday night and was continuing.

Mr. Amani also announced Tuesday that the government had arrested three of the men responsible for a car bomb explosion in the capital last month that left 19 dead and 56 injured.

He said the three were picked up in the Khaikhanna suburbs, and had identified themselves as members of an "anti-revolutionary" group based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Peshawar is the base of the interim government set up in February by mujahidin guerrillas.

Explosions were continuing at 10.30 p.m. (1800 GMT), although not with the intensity of the previous three hours.

There were still no reports of casualties from the barrage, which many residents believed to be the heaviest rocket attack on Kabul ever.

One observer who travelled to within a couple of kilometers (miles) of the exploding dump before the 10:00 p.m. curfew said the streets were full of people fleeing the area on foot, their way lit by the red glare.

Ammunition Depot 'Catches Fire'

LD0908065689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 8, BAKHTAR—An authoritative source of the armed forces reports that at about 7 p.m. today an ammunition depot of one of the detachments of the armed forces caught fire at the adjacent of Khaikhanna Hill, Kabul City.

Necessary measures are being taken for extinguishing the fire and bringing it under control.

Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistani Charge 8 Aug

LD0808170489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1730 and the following points were conveyed to him by the assistant director of the first political department of the Foreign Ministry:

Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords, supply of weapons to a handful of extremists and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs are now taking place on a wide scale. Adopting state terrorism as an authorized and official policy, Pakistan has increased aggression against and interference in our country more than ever before. This has led to the killing of even more Afghans and Muslims.

Rocket attacks on Afghan cities, in particular on Kabul, have been carried out. The chronology of events taking place from 13 Asad to 15 Asad 1368—which corresponds to 4 August to 6 August 1989—has been given by the country's responsible security authorities :

On 4 August—13 Asad—a total of 41 missiles were fired against Kabul. As a result, one person was killed, five were wounded, and two houses were destroyed. One wheat crop was set on fire and one container belonging to the CART Company was destroyed.

On 5 August—14 Asad—46 missiles were fired at Kabul. As a result, 23 to 31 citizens were killed and 20 were wounded. Six houses were destroyed and 2 government buildings were damaged.

On 6 August—15 Asad—49 missiles were fired at Kabul, resulting in the death of 5 people and the wounding of 28. Two houses were destroyed and 10 houses were damaged.

On 7 August—16 Asad—49 missiles were fired on Kabul, as a result of which 17 people were killed and 25 were wounded. Twelve houses were destroyed and a number of shops in the Arabian food market were burned down. The Intercontinental Hotel and central silo were slightly damaged.

The Afghan Government conveys a strong protest to the Pakistani authorities over these overt and foul acts of aggression by Pakistan, which are clear examples of state terrorism. It draws the attention of that country to the observation of the Geneva accords, which it has signed, and points to the possible grave consequences of such violations which will be borne by the country's responsible authorities.

Qandahar NIFA Commander Poisoned by Bodyguards

BK0908022889 Hong Kong AFP in English 2002 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 8 (AFP)—A well-known guerrilla commander with the mujahidin's pro-monarchy National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) has been assassinated, NIFA sources said here Tuesday [8 August].

Haji Latif, 76, known as the "lion of Qandahar," was poisoned to death by his bodyguards Monday while visiting Arghastan District, 80 kilometers (48 miles) east of the southern city of Qandahar, the sources said.

They said two bodyguards had been detained and were being interrogated.

The guerrilla chief had called a meeting Saturday of Qandahar Province field commanders which passed a resolution criticising the performance of the interim government set up by the Afghan resistance in February.

The commanders urged the Pakistan-based government to hold elections in resistance-held areas of Afghanistan, as it had promised to do within six months of its formation.

The NIFA sources said Mr. Haji Latif was "emerging as a new leader of the region."

NIFA is one of three moderate groups in the seven-party mujahidin alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. Its leader, Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, favors the return to power of former King Zahir Shah, currently exiled in Rome.

Mangal Returns From Trip to USSR 8 Aug

LD0908024689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet economic cooperation joint commission, who has been to the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the Soviet government, returned home this morning. On his arrival in Kabul, Deputy Prime Minister Mangal told BAKHTAR he had held useful talks with the Soviet side on agriculture, irrigation, electricity, industry, mines, transportation, communication, commerce, the financing of public welfare projects, the development of the private sector in the Republic of Afghanistan, the acceleration of transport of goods, and other possibilities of exploiting economic capacities to enhance economic cooperation and to meet the needs of the people of Afghanistan.

Sarwar Mangal said that the Afghan delegation's talks with the Soviet authorities was above all about the continuation of the activities of the Afghan transportation system and the supply of equipment and basic materials for the production of food. He expressed thanks for the USSR's acceptance of all our demands, as a result of which we will be able to resolve our problems.

AIG Heads on Establishment of Islamic Government

BK0808162289 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jul 89 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, July 24—The Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Afghanistan Prof. 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf has appealed to the sympathisers of the Afghan Jihad [Holy War] to extend their support till the achievement of the final goal, i.e. the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

In a Press statement issued in Peshawar the other day he said that over one and a half million Mujahidin have sacrificed their lives for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. "We could never expect the ample treasure of sympathies and kind sentiments of our friends to exhaust so soon in midway", he added.

Prime Minister Sayyaf warned of dangerous consequences if anybody tried to play with the blood of their martyrs.

He maintained that they would not tolerate any foreign power to interfere in their internal affairs or try to impose a government of their liking on the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, Minister of Communications of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) Engineer Ahmad Shah has charged that some foreign countries were against the establishment of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan.

Addressing a Mujahidin gathering in Pabbi near Peshawar the Communications Minister felt that the US was striving to put pressure on some of Mujahidin leaders to sit with the Kabul regime to pave the way for the installation of a government in Afghanistan, which was favourite of the U.S.

He criticised some leaders who have ignored the Islamic identity of Afghanistan and said, "even if the whole world stood against us, we will go ahead and we will ultimately achieve our goal".

Security Forces Capture Car Bombers

LD0908033789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of untiring efforts by the Ministry of State Security, the perpetrators of an explosion next to Bamiyan Restaurant on Nader Pashtun Road were recently captured.

BAKHTAR's Military section reports that the criminals and enemies of our people used 500 kg explosives in a motor vehicle they blew up on third day of 'Id al-Fitr when our Muslim people were celebrating the occasion. As a result of this shocking and unforgivable crime by these criminals—who carried it out on the orders of their Pakistani, Saudi Wahhabi, and U.S. masters—8 people died, including children, women, and elderly men, and 78 were wounded. According to later reports, four more died in the hospital and a number are crippled. Much material loss was also inflicted on our compatriots.

These criminals bereaved tens of our compatriots families during the 'Id festival, tens of children were deprived of the loving parents, tens of families were deprived of their guardians. Once our compatriots saw the real faces of the Pakistan-backed sell-outs, they helped security organs in detecting the criminals and took an active and patriotic part in capturing the murderers.

Quoting an authoritive security source, BAKHTAR says that details of the criminals' confessions will be published in the mass media of the country once the investigation is completed.

Rockets, Explosives Seized in Areas Near Kabul

LD0808213989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that, as the result of a clearing-up operation by the Ministry of State Security, 30 kg of plastic explosives, fuses, timing devices, antipersonnel mines, and rocket launches with five rockets were seized with the cooperation of the peace-loving people in the areas near Kabul. They had been hidden by Pakistani-backed criminal murderers in order to cause an explosion in crowded areas of Kabul and create panic and terror among the people.

Similarly a quantity of explosives planted in the Industrial Bank were detected and neutralized.

Various Types of Ammunition Seized in Jalalabad

LD0908082589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 8, BAKHTAR—An authorised military source said here today that during the mopping up operations of the armed forces carried out in the outskirts of Jalalabad 11 fire of BM-1, 38 missiles, 16 mortar shells and 2100 bullets of different arms and ammunition fell at the hand of the armed forces. Several security posts were created during the past 24 hours in the strategic corners of the city.

The extremists supported by Pakistan attacked environs of Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces. No one was killed or wounded.

Ninety extremists killed, 35 other wounded and 3 others captured by the members of the armed forces in the Khowst Grand District of Qandahar Province.

As a result of the heavy shellings of the enemies 3 civilians were killed and 8 others wounded in the Laghman Province. The Chilmati congregational mosque, a pharmacy and 5 residential areas were partially damaged.

According to another report a quantity of explosives which were imported in the Kabul for carrying subversive activities was discovered and confiscated by the responsibles of the organs of the Ministry of State Security today.

Likewise explosives which were placed in two metal tins and placed in the industrial park in the capital with the close cooperation of the residents of the area were discovered and defused.

Correspondent Details Fighting in Nangarhar

BK0908053489 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 6

[By Mansoor Khan]

[Text] Peshawar, July 24—Contrary to the claims made recently by the Afghan Mujahidin of their having recaptured Samar Kheyl, the garrison still remains under the firm control of Kabul forces.

This was confirmed during a two-day visit of the Nangarhar Province undertaken by this correspondent.

Intriguingly, Peter Tomsen, the US envoy to the Afghan resistance, in a Press statement last week backed the Mujahidin's claim.

At the same time, however, the claim advanced by Kabul that its army had gained control of the Mujahidin's main operational base in the province, the Ghaziabad Farms, also proved incorrect. Similarly, the Kabul forces have not succeeded in dislodging the Mujahidin from the Sorkh Dival stronghold a couple of kilometres short of Samar Kheyl on the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway.

The Kabul army has, nevertheless, launched a major offensive to push the Mujahidin further towards the Pakistan border. The Kabul forces have entrenched themselves well in Samar Kheyl, and were last Thursday [20 July] conducting repeated air raids on and indiscriminate artillery shelling of Mujahidin positions in the Sorkh Dival area.

The regime forces had also taken up positions along the foothills of the Black Mountain and appeared to be aiming at capturing the peak. The Black Mountain forms a formidable natural barrier with the plains leading to Ghaziabad farms to the east and Samar Kheyl to its west.

They had succeeded on Thurday morning in capturing the Qatri Ghar (mountain) on the far side of Sorkh Dival which is a plateau between this mountain and the Black Mountain. The battle was raging for control of Sorkh Dival.

The Kabul army was shelling Sorkh Dival as also the Black Mountain heights from tanks deployed in the Qatri Ghar area. Should they succeed in occupying the strategic top of the Black Mountain, it would be very difficult for the Mujahidin to stay in the Sorkh Dival area as also perhaps in Ghaziabad.

The visit to the Mujahidin front positions at Sorkh Dival also revealed the acute shortage of both weapons and manpower being faced by the resistance.

An educated Mujahid, Masud Mohmand, complained bitterly that they wanted to launch an attack on the regime soldiers stationed in the Blacks Mountain foothills, but were unable to do so due to the limited number of Mujahidin.

Mas'ud Mohmand, who initiated his Jihad four months earlier, after returning from the United States, was very worried. He was critical of the lack of discipline among the Mujahidin, and said that it seemed they did not know that after capturing a place it had also to be defended.

He was, however, still hopeful of Mujahidin victory, and did not agree that the Jalalabad battle had proved a setback for them. He called it a good experience and wished that the Mujahidin would learn from it.

However, the extensive visit to Nangarhar has brought out the fact that in the absence of replenishment of Mujahidin forces in the area, it would be difficult for them to sustain the Kabul army onslaught for long.

Currently, not more than 150 Mujahidin are bearing the brunt on the front. They also lack sufficient quantities of ammunition.

India

Violence Continues in Jammu, Kashmir Region
BK0908024289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1819 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 8 (AFP)—Police opened fire Tuesday [8 August] for the second straight day to quell violence in a Buddhist-dominated district in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, killing one person and wounding 13.

Officials said that more than 40 people were injured in several clashes in Ladakh District Tuesday as communal violence between natives, mostly Buddhists, and immigrant Kashmiri Muslims spilled over from Monday.

Police opened fire on rival mobs late Monday to break up fighting outside the town of Leh.

Some 50 people were injured in the Monday clash, the headquarters town of Ladakh which borders Tibet. The authorities slapped an indefinite curfew on the town and ordered troops to shoot on sight anyone creating violence.

At least one woman was killed and 13 injured in the firing Tuesday, said officials here, the summer capital of the state. Unconfirmed reports said another woman had also died in the shooting.

Some six Buddhist houses were burnt in the violence, linked to a campaign by the Ladakhis for declaration of the mountain district as a union territory directly administered by New Delhi.

Some 30 people were injured in fights between natives and the Kashmiri Muslims in Ladakh's Lamayaru, Shey and Choglumsar villages, some of the new areas affected Tuesday, officials said. They did not give further details.

Meanwhile, the government of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, named a special administrator for the disturbed district in a bid to defuse the situation, an official spokesman said here.

The spokesman said the state cabinet at a special meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, named S.S. Rizvi, the additional chief secretary of the state government, as special administrator for Ladakh.

Mr. Rizvi's appointment was aimed at addressing the "grievances" of Ladakhis, he said, but added that the cabinet once again rejected the demand for declaring Ladakh as a union territory.

The Ladakhis allege they are discriminated against in employment and education by the state government, controlled by the regional Muslim-dominated national conference of Mr. Abdullah in alliance with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed
BK0908034889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] The entire Jammu city has been placed under indefinite curfew after the terrorists killed five persons and injured 10 others last night.

Our Jammu correspondent reports that three terrorists came on two scooters and went on spraying bullets on passers-by in the Gandhinagar locality around 2130 last night. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of Police Mr Gopal Sharma said that police have launched a massive manhunt to nab the terrorists.

Paper on 'Alarming' Situation
BK0508061889 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jul 89 p 8

[Editorial: "On the Brink"]

[Text] It is now abundantly clear that unless firm and effective steps are taken immediately and on a large enough scale, Kashmir will slide into a situation that could prove even more violent and intractable than Punjab. This alarming picture has been captured vividly in the latest edition of INDIA TODAY'S 'Newstrack'. Barring Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, State Congress (I) chief Shafi Qureshi and one, just one man on the street, everyone else the Newstrack reporter talked to either shyed away from endorsing the State's accession to India or blatantly sought a merger with Pakistan, mostly the latter. Worse, they are prepared to back their demand with violence. As one man put it, "Kalashnikovs will decide it". Seen in the backdrop of the hartals [strikes], the killings, the bomb explosions, and the inceasing attacks on security forces, it is undoubtedly a grave situation.

This is not an overnight development. What has happened and is happening, has been happening for a long time, surreptitiously at first, now openly and on an ever widening scale. Of the many events and influences at work, four inter-related factors stand out. First, potentially the most dangerous, is the adoption of Muslim fundamentalism by Kashmiris—adoption because for decades before and after independence, religious fundamentalism had been unknown in the valley. What role alien money and instigation played—is playing—in so courrupting the traditional Kashmiri ethos is debatable, but it is obvious that Kashmiri Muslims—first a handful, now apparently vast numbers—have embraced fundamentalist thinking. A whole army of mullahs seems to be in action, among other things imparting the ideal of jihad [holy war] to the young in schools. Even the former Chief Minister, G.M. Shah, who once vowed to die in the cause of secularism and the State's accession to India, told the Newstrack reporter that the fundamentalists' demand for an Islamic State of Kashmir "is not irrational" but it would entail separation from India—and if that were to happen, he would "necessarily" be for it!

This underlines the second factor, namely, the marginalisation or transformation of the earlier political opposition in the State. G.M. Shah and Qazi Nissar are two examples. The Newstrack shows them beating a hasty retreat from a Jamia Masjid prayer meeting which was taken over by a masked militant and which turned into a free-for-all in which the Indian flag was burnt (in the august presence, incidentally, of the Iranian ambassador to India). Maulvi Farooq, desperate to have a say in the new politics in the State, refused to answer the question whether he was for India or for Pakistan. Whatever hold such 'leaders' may still have on the people is now directly proportional to whether or not they endorse both the militants and the fundamentalists.

Thirdly, whatever the original inspiration for their religious militancy, the fundamentalists are no foreign agents; they are as Kashmiri as the Dal Lake. This is equally true of the Kalashnikov-wielding militants. In the event, those who see a parallel between what is happening in Kashmir now and what happened in 1965 are fooling themselves. It is one thing for Pakistan to send saboteurs to the valley, vastly another to train Kashmiris in sabotage and arson and shoot-outs and send them back to the valley fully armed to carry out their nefarious plans. There is enough evidence now that this is happening.

And, lastly, if they have struck successfully so far and, unlike 1965, find sympathy and sanctuary in Srinagar as well as the smaller towns, it is because of the alienation and a sense of hopelessness of the Kashmiri youth. This is the (predictable) result of the rampant corruption, widespread unemployment, especially among the educated youth, an unresponsive administration and, above all, a government perennially feuding with itself, thanks to the "arranged marriage" that Farooq Abdullah and Rajiv Gandhi contrived between the Congress (I) and the National Conference three years ago. Whatever chances there might have been of making the marriage work were lost when, almost from the word go, each side indulged in partisan politicking to win points and advantages over the other. Even now, when the coalition government, in conjunction with the Centre, should be devoting all its attention to the twin task of economic betterment of the people and combating the fundamentalist and secessionist wave, they are busy playing chess on the cabinet chess-board. If they don't wake up and do what is expected of them, they will only be abetting in pushing Kashmir into a situation that will have very unfortunate and long-term repercussions, not only in the State but perhaps in the whole sub-continent.

Foreign Funding of Voluntary Groups Reported

BK0808015089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The Kudal Commission inquiring into the affairs of the Gandhi Peace Foundation and connected organizations has recommended to the government to take over their management. In its final report presented to parliament today, the commission has observed that these organizations have deviated from their basic aims and objectives and even associated themselves with disruptive and imperialist forces. The commission said as two of these organizations—Gandhi Smarak Nidhi [Memorial Fund] and Gandhi Peace Foundation—are associated with the name of the father of the nation, there is a need to ensure that they do not indulge in any activity that may tarnish the image of Mahatma Gandhi and bring bad name to the country.

The commission noted many shortcomings in the working of voluntary organizations and inadequate statutory provisions to control the worsening trends in the voluntary movement in the country. It also observed that most of the voluntary organizations which were investigated by it were in receipt of funds from different foreign agencies—some with dubious antecedents in the sources of their funding. It pointed out that on many occasions, these voluntary organizations sent proposals to the foreign agencies—painting a very grave, exaggerated, and false picture of the country and its people to gain sympathy and financial support.

The commission called for appropriate legislative provisions to arrest this trend. The commission has observed that some individuals who were holding key positions in these voluntary organizations had an opportunity to misuse their position to misappropriate the funds. The report also refers to voluntary organizations operating in the border, coastal, and tribal areas which were getting large funds from foreign agencies. The commission wanted the government to make suitable legislative provisions either to stop the entry of foreign funds in the country through voluntary organizations or regulate their inflow through government channels only, and keep a close watch over its utilization.

Along with the final report, the three interim reports of the commission were also tabled today. In a memorandum of action taken, the government informed parliament that 16 cases of alleged misuse and misappropriation of funds by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and connected organizations have been referred to CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation].

Opposition Leaders Implicated

BK0808132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The Kudal commission of inquiry has indicted four organizations for major financial misconduct and irregularities. The organizations are the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the Association of Voluntary Associations for Rural Development, the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi [Memorial Fund], and the All India Serva Seva Sangh [Public Service Association]. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, made a statement on the final as well as the fourth, fifth, and sixth interim reports of the commission in the Rajya Sabha today. The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, made a similar statement in the Lok Sabha.

The home minister said these institutions, which were to serve society in the best Gandhian tradition, became instruments for self-serving individuals for political and financial advantages, working quite often against national interests. The reports of the commission covers as many as 116 cases involving financial irregularities of over 90 million rupees. Out of these 58 cases were found non-actionable and hence recommended to be dropped.

Prominent individuals against whom the commission has given its findings are former Union Ministers [during Janata Party government] Mr George Fernandes, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, and Mr Dhanik Lal Mandal; former editor of INDIAN EXPRESS, Mr B.G. Verghese; and secretary of Gandhi Peace Foundation, Mr K.S. Radhakrshna.

After making the statement in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Buta Singh told the house that the commission's work was completed much after the scheduled time because of some stay orders obtained by one of the organizations being investigated.

Commentator on Outcome of Talks With Sri Lanka

BK0508115089 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Commentary by Sumit Chakraverty on the India-Sri Lanka Talks]

[Text] The week-long ministerial level Indo-Sri Lankan talks held in New Delhi from 29 July have concluded without any agreement over the time table for the total pull out the Indian Peacekeeping Force—IPKF—in the island state. The absence of an agreement on the question of a suitable timeframe for the devolution of political powers to the island Tamils has also been noted in the course of the negotiations. [Word indistinct] end of the discussions eventually yield. Since a joint statement on a limited area of agreement could not be issued at the end of talks, both sides released separate statements on the results of the negotiations according to their respective perceptions.

The Government of India said that large areas of understanding had emerged in the course of the talks and equipped the two governments with a better appreciation of each other's concerns. The Sri Lankan Government statement underscored that the discussions were cordial and frank and characterized by a constructive approach. Now that the differences remained as wide as before, there is a natural element of uncertainty about the future. This is quite natural. However, observers are doubtful if the absence of a tangible agreement in these discussions would lead to a heightening of tension between the two countries as had happened prior to July 20th last.

It was on that day, that is July 20th, that India had agreed in a joint communique to reveal the IPKF pullout that had been suspended some 4 months ago. This was done at the request of the Sri Lankan president. Simultaneously, the communique had announced that at the [word indistinct] invitation of the external affairs minister of India, a high powered Sri Lankan ministerial delegation led by the country's foreign minister would be visiting New Delhi for talks with the Indian side on the time schedule for the complete withdrawal of the Indian troops, the cessation of military operations by the IPKF as well as the security of all communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

The differences between the two sides are quite wide and should not be glossed over. The Sri Lankan Government is under attacks from Sinhalese extremist group—the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, JVP—which has lately stepped up its violent terrorist activities in the island demanding the IPKF pullout. It has been branding the present Sri Lanka regime of President Ranasinghe Premadasa as an agent of India. In the circumstances, the Sri Lankan side was keen on an unconditional and total withdrawal of the IPKF from Sri Lanka. It also insisted on a complete cease-fire—that is, a full halt to the IPKF operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam—LTTE. India was conscious of the JVP threat to the Sri Lankan Government, but for New Delhi what was essential was that the withdrawal and cease-fire be linked with role of the LTTE, with its track record of bloody assault on the IPKF and other Tamil groups, would play in the days ahead. [sentence as heard] Hence, the safety and security of Tamils in the island were a prime consideration from the Indian perspective. It was also desirous of devolution of adequate political powers to the Tamils in that country. Its fears regarding the Tamils' insecurity were not unfounded in the light of past experience.

Unfortunately, the Colombo administration was not prepared to meet the Indian conditions. The meetings the Sri Lankan delegation had with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi were quite friendly and cordial, but they failed to break the deadlock. A temporary unconditional cease-fire suggested by New Delhi was not accepted by Colombo which for obvious reasons did not want to commit to anything that will even remotely hint of submission to alleged Indian pressure.

Reportedly, the Sri Lankan delegation is carrying back ideas and specific suggestions from the discussions which were definitely not fruitless in the long run. The delegation is expected to report to the Sri Lankan president, who is likely to take the next step. The differences between the two sides are doubtless wide but not unbridgable. They can be bridged if both sides display a reasonable degree of sagacity, that is very much in demand as far as Indo-Sri Lankan relations are concerned. It was this sagacity that had led to the conclusion 2 years ago of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord which had sought to bring about an amicable solution to the vexed ethnic problem in the island state.

Self-Reliance in Insat Affair Suggested

BK0608113589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "After Insat-1D"]

[Text] The American failure to put into orbit Insat-1D, damaged while being hoisted onto the Delta launch vehicle at Cape Canaveral on June 20, has put India in a serious quandary. The launch has been indefinitely delayed as experts go about appraising the damage, repairing the satellite, and fixing test plans and fresh launch date. This has cast a dark shadow of uncertainty on India's entire telecom channels, meteorological data collection work and TV programming. The Insat-1D mishap has also required India to shop desperately in international market for satellite channels and time. A deal with Arabsat, a satellite of Arab consortium, is in the offing, but going by the current price of 3.5 million US dollar for one transponder for a year, India may end up forking out huge amounts to keep its telecom lines and TV channels working. These are at the moment being maintained by 12 transponders of Insat-1B, six of Insat-1C and two of Intelsat. With working life of Insat-1B and the Intelsat contract both expected to come to an end around October, the country would be left with only six transponders of Insat-1C, now working at half its capacity. A crisis seems inevitable. And responsibility for it fully lies with the US firm, Ford Aerospace, which fabricated all the four jinxed satellites in the Insat-1 series. The last of the four, was designed to provide a vital link between Insat-1s and the seven-part Insat-2, which ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] plans to manufacture on its own in the 90s. The US-manufactured Insat-1 series cost a total of Rs [rupees] 564 crore. The indigenous production of Insat-2 series of seven satellites is expected to cost about Rs 420 crore and provide 50 percent more facilities. Commendable though the effort at self-reliance would be, the country meanwhile seems destined to go through a difficult period, since no back-up facilities exist for the damaged Insat-1D. The failures of the four US-made satellites to function normally have cost the country dearly, though some money has been recovered from insurance companies. The lesson to learn from the experience stresses self-reliance in crucial matters. India has developed the requisite scientific expertise in the field, and the effort should be pursued vigorously.

State Government Boycott of TV, Radio Assailed

BK0608042289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The West Bengal Pradesh [State] Congress-I president, Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, has criticized the left front government [of communist-ruled West Bengal State] for its decision to boycott Doordarshan [television] and All India Radio. In a statement in Calcutta, Mr Choudhury said the left front government's decision is a political stunt, and it is trying to dramatize the issue before the coming elections. He said about 80 percent of the news items in the local bulletins of the two electronic media is devoted to the state ministers and left front leaders.

Minister States Position on Assam Tribal Issue

BK0808091189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, has ruled out the signing of any agreement on the Bodo [tribal] problem in Assam without taking the state into confidence. Mr Deo was addressing a joint news conference with the state chief minister, Mr P.K. Mahanta in Dispur last night. The minister said it is now up to the state government to decide whether or not it wants to talk with the Bodo leaders. The center has already deputed a representative for such talks.

Iran

Archbishop of Canterbury's Letter to New President

LD0808154189 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—The Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie in a letter to the newly-elected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, appealed to him to use his influence in Lebanon to prevent further execution of foreign hostages held there. [passage omitted]

The message published by the president's office, was dated August 1, one day after the execution of the U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins by the "Organisation of the Oppressed of the World" last Monday. [passage omitted]

The following is the full text of the message:

Your Excellency

I greet you in the name of the one God of mercy and compassion.

May I first offer you my warmest congratulations on the outcome of the presidential election. Iran faces formidable problems of reconstruction after the appalling loss of life and destruction that occurred in the Gulf war, and it is fortunate that you are to preside over the Government of Iran in the critical years ahead.

I was shocked by the Israeli kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two assistants, and I was especially shocked that this was done on the very day of the Iranian presidential election. I immediately issued a statement in which I unreservedly condemned this kidnapping. I went on to say that kidnapping was always an abominable crime, but especially so when done by a state. I called upon Israel to release the men immediately.

I have renewed my plea to the Israeli Government today, in the light of the news of the shocking murder of one of the American hostages.

I am ever conscious of the fact that the kidnappings that have gone on for so many years began with the kidnapping by Lebanese Christian forces of Hoseyn Musavi, two other Iranians and their driver. As you know, I have frequently pointed out that this kidnapping was just as abominable as any other, and I have sought to discover information about their fate. Most regrettably, I have not been able to discover any news.

I know that we share a common view of kidnapping and I know also that you are conscious of the grief of the hostage families whether of British, Iranian or any other nationality. May I most earnestly appeal to you to use influence to preserve the lives of all the hostages in Lebanon. Their deaths could do nothing for the people of Lebanon who have suffered for so long, and their protection would be seen in Britain and the world as an act of great statesmanship.

I again express my good wishes to you and to the people of Iran under your presidency, and I pray that the one God of mercy and compassion will guide your most difficult work over the coming years.
Yours sincerely,
Robert Cantuar
Archbishop of Canterbury
Primate of all England and metropolitan

ABRAR Urges West's Concern for Iranian Hostages

LD0908082189 Terhan IRNA in English 0805 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—By helping set free Lebanese Alim Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and four Iranian hostages in Lebanon, the West will have taken the first step in showing good will in the hostage issue, an Iranian daily said today.

"Iran has repeatedly announced its readiness to exert its influence, influence that it enjoys among Lebanese Muslims, to help solve the hostage issue in response to any sign of good will by the West," the morning daily ABRAR said in an editorial.

But it stressed that the West had not been willing "to give the same value to all human beings" taken hostage in Lebanon and Israel.

The paper made no mention of Iranian assets held in the united states which a report in the TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday [8 August] suggested could be the key to Iran's help in freeing Western hostages.

The report, quoting a source close to President-Elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received a negative reaction in Washington where a White House spokesman said the U.S. was not "willing to link the Iranian assets question to the hostage question."

ABRAR said the hostage crisis emerged following Israel's kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the consequent execution of American Hostage Lt. Col. William Higgins by his Lebanese abductors.

Now the way out was to free all hostages of all nationalities, it suggested. But ABRAR believed the head of the Church of England had not shown enough concern about the fate of Iranian hostages.

"The lives of all human beings are of equal worth and all the famiies of all hostages are in grief. But if all efforts are only towards securing the lives of Western hostages, then it proves that we have not been able to treat all human beings on an equal footing," it said.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in a mesage to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, asked the Islamic Republic to use its influence among the Lebanese and Palestinian combatants to bring about the freedom of the Western hostages.

While Dr Runcie had deplored the abduction of four Iranians in Lebanon, "he has not uttered a word about the fact that he can disclose some information on the fate of the Iranian hostages using his influence in the British Government.

"He has neither clarified why the Western states do not put the Israeli regime under pressure to set free the Lebanese alim."

Combatant Clergymen Issue Statement on 'Ubayd

NC0808152389 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Jul 89 p 2

["Text" of statement issued by the Council of the Combatant Clergymen of Tehran"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. We thank God for revealing the criminal face of world arrogance and international Zionism, and the daily-increasing grandeur and influence of the Islamic revolution of the world more and more each day through the maniacal reactions of world-devouring America and criminal Israel. [passage omitted]

With the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the respectable Friday imam of Jibshit and a combatant clergman and continuer of the path of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, as well as two of his companions, the monstrous Zionists added yet another black page to their sinister history. [passage omitted]

The Council of the Combatant Clergymen of Tehran strongly condemns this savage terrorist crime and expresses its unsparing and unreserved support for Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon in their struggle against the Zionists and their elements until the annihilation of the usurper Israel, and it renews its call once again to all the Islamic, national, and anti-Zionist forces in Lebanon to cooperate with the Islamic resistance more and to open the way for the immediate and powerful return of Hizballah to South Lebanon so that while preventing a repetition of such crimes, the path for deadly blows on the usurper Zionists and for assistance to the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation will be paved. God willing.
[Signed] The Council of Combatant Clergymen of Tehran
[Dated] 30 July 1989

TEHRAN TIMES Assesses 'Ubayd's Abduction

NC0708213289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 89 pp 2, 15

[Editorial: "France Experience in Lebanon a Good Example"]

[Text] The region was rocked with a new phase of tension when a commando unit of the Israeli Army abducted Shayh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his companions from his residence in South Lebanon. A consequence of this act of terrorism led to the execution of the American hostage Lt Col Higgins who was kidnapped in the city of Tyre in South Lebanon while serving as a commanding official for the UN forces. He was kidnapped by the underground group of "Oppressed on Earth".

Israel was seeking two goals by kidnapping the Shaykh. First, they were trying, somehow, to disrupt the normalization of the relationship between Amal and Hizballah which reached a high point when the two groups signed a treaty in Tehran and vowed close relations in the face of the Zionist aggressions in Lebanon.

By kidnapping the Shaykh from a region that was mainly controlled by the Amal movement the Israelis hoped to aggravate suspicions of some Hizballah members toward Amal and their involvement in this act. They have tried to reopen old wounds between the two groups since their united strategy can tip the balance of power in favor of the Islamic forces particularly in South Lebanon.

The second goal was to test the idea of swapping hostages with their Muslim captives. This idea had strong support from the right wing of the Israeli cabinet led by Ariel Sharon and was aimed at challenging the Lebanese and their readiness for conducting "business".

What we have observed over the last few days, however, is failure for Israel in both aspects of their action, and the tension, subsequently, has moved to the Israeli cabinet and their foreign relations in particular with the United States. Their message for the American people is indicative of the seriousness of the situation following the execution of the American colonel.

Israel recognizes its miscalculations now and, thus, is trying to give a different picture, one that is more acceptable to people, of this situation. They are insinuating that it is the Lebanese groups that are not ready to make a deal and to free the hostages and that some "risk" might be necessary. This idea is completely and absolutely wrong because the French in 1987 were successful in guaranteeing the release of their hostages through negotiations and mediation of some countries.

What the French succeeded with then was a logical and acceptable procedure for gaining the release of all hostages, given that the negotiations were based on honesty and sincerity. If the negotiations and contacts are based on the same "principle of honesty" then the countries with interest in Lebanon are ready to use their good offices for the release of the captives.

Another point to be noted here is that the mass media of the world of arrogance have once again found a new subject to accuse Iran and tarnish its image in the world. This is the special method and manner the West has once upon a time employed to attract public attention and intensify their hostility against the Islamic revolution.

The officials of the Islamic Republic have repeatedly condemned kidnapping and acts of terrorism in every form and have suggested peaceful approaches to stop such brutalities. Lebanon's kidnapping incident is but a result of joint U.S.-Israel crime and Iran is a victim to it. Therefore, no bright prospects can be expected for putting an end to this problem until and unless Zionists and imperialists seek ways to stop their crimes and oppression.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Condemns Abduction

NC0808174889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Era When Israel's Crimes Went Unanswered Has Passed"]

[Excerpts] The abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Friday imam of Lebanon's Jibshit, by elements of the terrorist regime of Israel has aroused a wave of rage and condemnation against the Israeli terrorists and their mentors.

This is not the first time that the Zionists have perpetrated a crime and resorted to terrorist acts, while blatantly admitting responsibility for this terrorism. [passage omitted]

As to what answer the zealous Muslims of Lebanon will give to such criminal methods concerns them only. But Israel's record of crimes and their reverse impacts on the morale of the Lebanese Muslims clearly show that an "iron fist" policy or any other crime which the terrorists ruling Israel will want to resort to in order to stifle the cry of oppression of the Lebanese people will boomerang and will be fully to the detriment of Israel and its mentors.

Currently some active Islamic groups in Lebanon have threatened Israel with retaliation; and this clearly shows that Israel's crimes will no longer go unanswered and that Israel and its mentors should expect the consequences of their terrorist crimes.

We should also look at the deadly silence by human rights advocates and see why those who are always ready to condemn the justice-seeking movements of nations have remained silent or are scoffing—something which is far worse than silence?

The reason is clear. If Israel is actually condemned, it is the mentors of Israel who will see themselves as the targets of world rage. If Israel amd the terrorist acts of the Zionists are condemned, it is the United States and the other Western mentors of Israel who should be condemned more. Frankly speaking, what meaning will the condemnation of Israel's crimes by the United States and the other mentors of Israel have when the wholehearted support for Israel continues?

Even though Israel and its mentors symbolize state terrorism, they nevertheless want to portray themselves as the standard-bearers of the fight against terrorism; and it is by resorting to this tattered weapon that they want to rise in a fight against the most oppressed people of the region and to massacre them, without receiving any answer or retaliation whatsoever by these nations. Rising in self-defense, retaliating against Israel's crimes or avenging the blood of the oppressed martyrs of Lebanon and Palestine are interpreted by the Israeli executioner as "terrorism"; and suddenly all the propaganda machinery of arrogance is set into motion and suddenly the human rights' conscience of Israel's mentors is marred, and everyone starts howling condemnations against nations. But those who demand their rights and want to defend themselves are portrayed as "terrorists" and "enemies of peace and security."

Israel has now risen in a savage act against the people of Lebanon and has resorted to terrorist acts. It has endorsed its blatant role in this great crime and kidnapping. The depth and consequences of this crime are extremely clear, and the contemporary world should deploy all its means against such unrestrained terrorism and crush it. However, it seems that the contemporary world will inflict the initial blow on the people of Lebanon themselves.

Commentary on Hizballah-Amal Unity in Lebanon

LD0808211189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1736 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] A Lebanese guerrilla group comprising members of Hizballah and Amal, yesterday attacked a position held jointly by the Zionist occupying forces and their mercenaries; they succeeded in dealing effective blows on the enemy forces, killing some and wounding others.

The military outcome of the attack apart, the important point is that the attack was the first joint Hizballah-Amal military operation in south Lebanon after the Tehran talks.

During the talks, chaired by [foreign minister] Dr Veleyati, the two struggling Lebanese movements achieved a framework for undertaking joint operation. The first step of the new accord amounts to putting an end to the earlier sad relations between them which were due to the emergence of very adverse conditions which at times resulted from mistaken analyses.

Now it is hoped that the unity of operation, achieved through the talks in Tehran, and the joint action yesterday, will open a new chapter in relations between these two Muslim struggling Lebanese organizations.

It is clear that from now on anti-Zionist operations will expand in south Lebanon and will be better coordinated. These guerrilla operations have forced the occupying Israel regime to become embroiled in the longest drawn-out war since it achieved its so-called independence.

Meanwhile, the joint Hizballah-Amal operations have taken place in conditions in which the two organizations are waging an intensified struggle in Beirut with the renegade forces of Michele 'Awn, which are supported by Israel and Iraq.

In the view of many political circles, meanwhile, the terrorist abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd by Israel is intended to show that feuds still exist between the Lebanese Shiites especially between Hizballah and Amal. Shaykh 'Ubayd was the Friday prayers leader of a town which is one of the important bases of Hizballah in south Lebanon. On the other hand, the town is situated in an area where Amal is in charge of security; hence, the schism.

There is another view, that one of the Israel's objectives in abducting Shaykh 'Ubayd was motivated by its decision to counteract the expansion of anti-Zionist operations in south Lebanon. That is to say, since the Israeli regime views the Tehran accord between Hizballah and Amal as a move to revive anti-Zionist operations in south Lebanon, it abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd as a warning to the Muslims strugglers to tell them that any action by them would meet swift reaction.

However, all of these assessments proved to be wrong because the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd itself led to a new crisis, presenting the United States with new difficulties. It has also made the hostage issue again one of the important problem in U.S. policy in the Middle East. Moreover, anti-Zionist operations have proved that Lebanon's Islamic struggling organizations not only do not find the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd an obstacles to their dynamism, but in fact that issue has provided more motivation for fighting the occupiers.

Repeated mistakes by Israel and the United States in the region and in Lebanon show that these two countries can no longer achieve their objectives by solely relying on their military power; they are forced to accept the fact that they must make room for independent forces in their calculations.

KAYHAN Sees End to 'Awn 'Illegitimate' Rule

LD0908091289 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Gen. Michel 'Awn's had made too many enemies he could handle and his illegitimate rule in Lebanon could end if all anti-Zionist Muslim forces unite. [sentence as received]

"If all the progressive forces stick together aided by Syria's true intention to return peace and harmony to the war-torn country it might just be time for 'Awn and his clique to pack their bags," the English-language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said.

It seemed ongoing efforts to further unite Lebanon's Muslim and nationalist groups against 'Awn and his allies was gradually giving the desired results, the paper said.

There would not be much time left for 'Awn to appeal to another country as things have already started falling apart for his imposed rule in the predominantly-Muslim country, the English daily said in its editorial Wednesday.

'Awn recently appealed to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to pressure Damascus to end the fighting which started in mid March when 'Awn ordered a blockade of Muslim military ports and pledged to drive out 40,000 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon.

The daily said it was certain that Soviet mediation could not help in easing 'Awn's woes as he had made "remarkable progress" in increasing the number of his adversaries in a country torn by factional violence.

"Now the appeal to Gorbachev and the Christian misfortunes that have been piling-up due to 'Awn's quest for power indicate his hold on Beirut is diminishing faster than most observers had contemplated," it said.

"By knocking on Moscow's door the general has disclosed that his loyalties to Paris, Tel Aviv and Washington and Baghdad are not paying the right dividends." The daily stressed that once and for all the habit of "calling on foreign interference" in solving internal disputes must finally be broken and the Muslim majority in Lebanon should staunchly block any new attempts by Christians to dominate Lebanese politics.

Commentary on Steps Needed for Relations With U.S.

NC0708220089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 89 p 3

[Seyyed 'Ali Mahmudi commentary: "Three Strategic Steps for the Resumption of Iran-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] A Kuwait daily (AL-SIYASAH) recently claimed that Iran and the United States had held 'secret talks'. This claim was immediately refuted by a senior Majlis deputy as a 'lie'. The news, nontheless, has taken into consideration the nature and future of Iran-U.S. relations.

To achieve the normalization of reciprocal relations between Iran and the United States, which was broken off by America in April 1980, I think the United States should walk three strategic steps each following on the other:

The First Step: As a matter of historical fact, the United States must eventually adapt to the reality that the present situation of the world, particularly since the 1980s has significantly changed. Strictly speaking, nations of the Third World, especially Muslims, no longer tolerate suppression and hegemonistic policies by great powers. They are growing culturally and politically and will not stand for any kind of domination and illegal interferences. Afghanistan, Lebanon and Iran herself are three clear examples.

The Second Step: The United States must recognize the reality of the Islamic Revolution which has been created by millions of people in Iran and is growing profoundly in momentum and stature. After a decade the United States has no choice other than accept this tremendous reality. Whoever denies 'the reality', he in fact denies himself because he himself is a part of the reality.

Moreover, as the second step, the United States must compensate for her mistakes and interferences in Iran during the Shah's regime and the first decade of the Islamic Revolution; stopping, for instance, her hostility against Iranian people and their revolution by putting an end to her help to the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by releasing Iran's property which has been blocked by the United States since 1980.

The Third Step: For the resumption of reciprocal relations with Islamic Iran, as the Iranian Government agrees, the United States must theoretically and practically accept these two fundamental factors:
1. Non-interference into Iran-U.S. internal affairs. [as published]
2. Respect for mutual interests.

The United States should honor her legal and moral obligations in respect to the above factors, which is in accordance with international laws.

I think this framework including the three steps explained above is reasonable and practicable for both sides.

Now it is up to the United States to decide whether or not she is keen on walking, not on the rocks but on the path of reality. One fact, however, is quite clear: There will be no change in Iran's 'neither East nor West' policy.

Palestinian Leader Praises Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0808204189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] sent a cable to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, praising our president-elect for his role in serving Islam and the Muslims. Jibril stressed that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's honest inclination toward helping the Palestinian nation is shown his efforts aimed at unification of the faithful and combatant Palestinian forces.

The PFLP-GC secretary-general also pointed out ties between Palestinian strugglers and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Aide Rejects Iraqi Peace Call

LD0908074989 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 9 Aug 89

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani Aide Rejects iraqi Peace Call as Propaganda"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A source close to President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday [8 August] rejected Iraq's call for a comprehensive peace treaty as propaganda, according to a report.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday quoting the source was referring to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's message Tuesday in which he said Iran should display good will to achieve peace.

"I really fail to understand what type of propaganda the Iraqi regime wants to air. It's nothing but a campaign of disinformation," the unamed source said.

The war which began with an Iraqi invasion in September 1980 ended nearly eight years later with a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire on August 20 last year as demanded in Security Council Resolution 598.

Peace talks between the two countries began five days later and has continued for several rounds ever since in Geneva and New York with no progress on implementing 598's other main demands.

Iraqi occupation of more than 2,000 sq kms of Iranian territory in violation of paragraph one of the resolution has been the main stumbling block, in Iran's point of view.

"Even the first paragraph of Resolution 598 (has not) been implemented," the source close to the president-elect was quoted as saying.

He reminded that Iran had accepted a four-point plan proposed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to carry out the resolution, but Iraq had not.

The plan calls for the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders, exchange of prisoners of war, freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and dredging the Arvand Border River.

Saddam Husayn appeared on Iraqi television Tuesday said Baghdad said the cease-fire "should not be taken as a talisman for peace... We are after a comprehensive, total and lasting peace treaty."

But the Hashemi-Rafsanjani source reacted: "I really do not understand how the one who signed an accord and then appeared on television and tore that accord into pieces can now claim that he was serious about a permanent peace."

He was referring to Saddam's tearing of the 1975 Algiers Accord on September 17 1980, days before the Iraqi Army began its invasion of Iran. The accord had settled territorial disputes.

Shevardnadze's Role on Resolution 598 Viewed

NC0708212489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Shevardnadze Can Do More on Resolution 598"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze left Tehran yesterday after talks with Iranian officials and became the first foreign minister to call on President-Election Hashemi-Rafsanjani after his presidential electoral win confirmed Sunday.

Irano-Soviet ties got on to a phase of renewed friendship recently with Rafsanjani's Soviet visit and is seen linked to his name. A number of general agreements were signed during that visit and these have now to be given body and implemented. Apart from a number of subjects Shevardnadze took up in discussions with Iranian officials there can be added significance to these talks from the fact that the Soviet minister has met with UN Chief Perez de Cuellar in Paris prior to his visit here.

Together with Iran's expectations that the northern neighbor will play a pivotal role on the issue of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations and the likelihood that this subject figured in the talks, the indications are that Moscow will surely pave the way towards the establishment of a lasting peace emerging from a settlement of the Iran-Iraq dispute.

Moscow, as a matter of fact was a country closest to events in the 8-year long war. But even using its prestigious position as a member of the Security Council it did little to stop the conflict. However, Glasnost and Perestroyka have made a big difference to Soviet thinking and the new trend is to defuse, contain or stop outright all world conflicts. So naturally the Soviets will no doubt do their best in the Iran-Iraq conflict too and move toward having Resolution 598 implemented.

The Resolution 598 implementation being mandatory on both countries, the Soviet Union as a signatory to the resolution and as a Security Council member which enjoys good relations with both parties should address itself seriously to the question of its implementation and a solution to the present deadlocks in negotiations. It can be a diplomatic victory for the Soviet Union if it does this well and successfully. Moreover the finalization of the Resolution 598 can be another good step in exemplary relationships between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Moscow very well appreciates the fact that respectable and mutual relations among countries of the world will be subject to peace and tranquility being present first in the region.

Now that the talks in the Iran-Iraq issue are in cold storage with there being no signs of a new round in the negotiations, Shevardnadze's Tehran visit can and hopefully will become a new start to what we think should lead to a region free from tensions and conflicts. Whether this is high speculation, or will be the natural outcome of this important visit may well come to be known in a few days.

UNIIMOG Commander Inspects Dezful

LD0808115589 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 8, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic inspected ceasefire lines in the Dezful region Monday. Gen. Jovic was accompanied by UNIIMOG commander in Iran Brig. Gen. James Kelly.

During the inspection tour, he talked with UNIIMOG forces in the area and discussed their activities and problems.

Kurdish Statement on Qasemlu Assassination

LD0308141189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Dear compatriots, active Feda'is. In this part of the program, we draw your attention to the statement of the majority wing of the Kurdish Committee of Feda'iyan-e Khalq, about the dastardly assassination of Dr Qasemlu.

Struggling Kurdish people, revolutionary forces! It was with great sadness and regret that we were informed that Dr Abdolrrahman Qasemlu, secretary general, and Abdollah Qaderi, member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, together with an Iraqi Kurdish struggler Dr Rasul Fadel, were assassinated and martyred in Vienna, Austria, as a result of the vile conspiracy of the reactionary agents and the enemies of the people of Kurdistan. The Kurdish Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran, Majority, while condemning the dastardly assassination of Dr. Qasemlu and his companions, expresses its condolences to the Kurdish masses, especially the fellow-strugglers of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan who were fighting under the leadership of Dr Qasemlu against the regime of the Islamic Republic.

Dr Qasemlu, the well-known struggler in the cause of democracy for Iran and autonomy for Kurdistan, achieved the leadership of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan at the most critical and most violent period in the political history of Iran. Dr Qasemlu, by making use of his political knowledge and experience, succeeded in playing an important role in the leadership of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan under the difficult conditions of the suppression and dictatorship of the mullahs ruling over our country and under the conditions of Iran-Iraq war, and had a profound influence on the national movement of the Kurdish masses. His remarkable role in gaining the rights of the Kurdish people and establishing a free and democratic Iran will always be remembered. Without doubt, his martyrdom is a major loss for the national movement of the Kurdish masses and for democracy in Iran.

Reactionary agents and the enemies of the Kurdish masses vainly think that through the dastardly assassination of famous strugglers of Kurdish masses, they will be able to overcome the movement of the Kurdish masses. However, the experience of the past decades has clearly proved that the national movement of the Kurdish masses, through its long struggle against reaction and dictatorship and by overcoming many ups and downs, have reached such a degree of political maturity that the loss of such struggles will not create an obstacle in the path of their revolutionary and struggling movement.

The reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic, which after forsaking its war with Iraq has sent a large force for the final suppression of the revolutionary movement of the Kurdish masses, will try to take the utmost advantage of the loss of Dr Qasemlu to achieve its goals in Iranian Kurdistan. The critical present conditions require maximum vigilance and responsibility more than ever before.

The Kurdish Committee of Feda'iyan-e Khalq-e Iran, Majority Wing, will call on all the leaders, members, and supporters of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan and other nationalist and individual forces of the Kurdish masses to work towards greater unity, solidarity, and unity of action. The nationalist and revolutionary forces of the Kurdish masses should compensate for this tragic event by means of greater solidarity and unity of action for the strengthening of the resistance movement of Iranian Kurdistan, for bringing victory to the legitimate struggle of the Kurdish masses, and for the toppling of the reactionary regime of the Islamic Republic, and they should build a mighty fortress against the future conspiracies of the regime.

Long live the memory of martyr Qasemlu and his fellow-strugglers. Victory to the revolutionary movement of the Kurdish masses. Down with the regime of the Islamic Republic.
[Signed] Kurdish Committee of Feda'iyan-e Khalq, Majority
[Dated] [date indistinct]

Commentary Condemns Austrian Police's Position

NC0808155089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Jul 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The assassination some time ago in Austria of 'Abd-al-Karim Qasemlu, secretary general of the defunct Democratic Party, clarified one point in view of the incidents that followed it; and this point is that Austrian policy lacks the necessary efficiency to clarify the issue and to arrest the murderer or murderers, or that it does not want to exert the necessary efforts to clarify this issue. The fact that a country's police is able to solve a crime after some time is almost an ordinary matter. Therefore, a great weakness in a country's police force is its efforts to resort to various imaginary condemnations in order to hide those weaknesses.

Without any documentation, the Austrian police condemned some Iranian elements as being involved in Qasemlu's assassination, and on the basis of this took hostile steps that need to be studied and analyzed. Possibly the most major point in these steps is the baselessness of the fact that the Austrian police wants to remove the question mark that hangs over its effectiveness and to prevent a further revelation of its weakness.

In the Austrian police's accusation of some Iranian elements of involvement in Qasemlu's assassination, the noteworthy point is that the Austrian police, like all other Western officials and governments, based its accusation on information acquired from counterrevolutionaries and especially from the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. Though almost 11 years have passed since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the West has not yet been able to assess correctly this revolution exactly because of the incorrect information and analyses that it has been receiving. The hypocrites, who are the major distorters of history, have played a significant role in distracting the West and in keeping them distanced from the realities that exist in the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

The Austrian police should understand what objectives the hypocrites and their other information sources pursue, and to study the information that it receives from these sources by bearing in mind these objectives. More important, it should look at the political incidents that led to the assassination of Qasemlu, and think about the fact that the solution to the Kurdistan issue is not of benefit to the Iraqi regime, and that Qasemlu's efforts to solve his differences with the Islamic Republic of Iran had extremely enraged the Iraqi regime and the hypocrites. It is because of this that the Iraqis tried to remove Qasemlu so that, on the one hand, they would prevent the solution to the Kurdistan problem and, on the other, gain more obedience from the Kurdish Democratic Party, while, at the same time condemn Iran of having been involved in the assassination!

Now, in view of the objectives pursued by the Iraqi regime and the hypocrites in this assassination, we should say that the Austrian police is, either willingly or unwillingly, moving exactly in the direction that was intended for it. But is it not disgraceful for the police of a country to become a tool in the hands of plotters?

Khamene'i Promulgates Amended Constitution

LD0608031289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] With the certification by the Council of Guardians of the integrity of the results of the referendum on the amendments of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i officially promulgated in a letter to the minister of interior. The text of the Council of Guardians' letter to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With greetings and salutations, the Council of Guardians, in implementation of Article 27 of the referendum law of the Islamic Republic of Iran approved on 25 June 1989, declares its view confirming the integrity of the results of the referendum on the amendments of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was held on 28 July 1989. It must be noted that the amendments of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution were approved by a vast majority of the participants in the referendum, with 15,963,367 "yes" votes out of a total of 16,394,867 votes cast.

[Signed] The secretary of the Council of Guardians, Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani.

The text of the proclamation of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the Esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the honorable minister of the interior, in accordance with Article 123 of the Constitution, I hereby promulgate the amended text of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution which was approved by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution and which, according to the statement of the honorable council of guardians, was accepted and approved by the dear nation of Iran in the referendum held on 28 July 1989. [Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Khamene'i To Perform Official Duties Until 9 Oct

LD0808205189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Unattributed Political Commentary entitled: "The Reaffirmation of Ayatollah Khamene'i as Leader"]

[Excerpts] Following the presidential elections and amendments to the Constitution, which were held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on Friday, July 28th, the Assembly of Experts met a couple of days ago to reaffirm the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution.

With the reaffirmation of Ayatollah Khamene'i leadership by the Assembly of Experts, now the necessary grounds have been fully laid for the continuation of his leadership. It must be pointed out that during the preceding week, Ayatollah Khamene'i endorsed the election of the new president. However, as in the law, [word indistinct] the official commencement of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's function in his position, there is need for conduct of an oath-taking ceremony in the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Since the Islamic Consultative Assembly will remain in summer recess for another 2 weeks, it is predicted that this ceremony will be held immediately after the [word indistinct] of the assembly session.

In order to explain the legal procedures for the start of the official functions of the new president, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY arranged an interview with Iran's interior minister, Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohtashemi. In this interview Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohtashemi stressed that until before Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's oath-taking ceremony, the functions of the presidency will continue to be performed by the honorable leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i. He added: Under the provisions of the law, the leader shall continue to perform the presidential functions until October the 9th, that is for the next 2 months.

That is quite obvious that these powers shall be invested in the new president immediately after the conduct of the swearing-in ceremony of the new president. It is predicted that with the resumption of the precedings of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, on completion of the official ceremonies Iran's new president will officially take over his functions. However until that time the present government will, upon the order of the leader of the Islamic Republic, continue to perform its functions.

Editorial Urges Choosing Ministers on Competence

LD0908073489 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 9 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani must consider competence rather than allegiance to any faction as the criteria [as received] in choosing his cabinet, an Iranian daily urged.

"Any of the ministers chosen should be a man of action before being a political figure," THE TEHRAN TIMES said in an editorial.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani is expected to announce his team of ministers after taking the oath of office in front of Majlis deputies next week when the summer recess ends.

The paper said the new president had inherited difficult economic problems. In tackling them he must take into account two factors, long term social, cultural and economic strategy, and competent people to implement them.

"Selection of the future cabinet ministers should be based on realism and not on airy thinking or impractical sloganeering," said the paper.

"What the national interest of this country dictates should be followed regardless of particular political considerations."

The president would nevertheless need more than anything else the cooperation of all political factions to find remedies for existing domestic issues.

In foreign policy, Iran as a member of the international family "can under a healthy relationship emerge as a model for the Third World," it believed.

"We can, and must, become a strong and rich country and the center of pure Islam in this century," the English-language daily stressed.

It also believed that the Islamic Republic's relationship with industrial countries could be "a catalyst" for reaching our short and long term goals.

"Article 154 of the Constitution says that considering mutual respect and principles of non-interference, the country can attempt to establish a just bilateral relationship with the other countries."

Majlis Deputy on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Election

NC0708210989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] A senior parliamentarian yesterday hoped that a "new chapter will open for the country's foreign policy" with assumption of presidency by Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Majlis Deputy Ahmad 'Azizi in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "with the new administration of President-Elect Rafsanjani more hectic activities will be felt."

'Azizi, once a deputy foreign minister said, "the deadlock in the Irano-Soviet relations had been broken by our leader Imam Khomeyni."

He was referring to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit in June, first by a senior official since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Before he left for Moscow Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Imam mentioned to him the importance of improving ties with the Soviet Union. The Imam passed away on June 3.

During his visit Hashemi-Rafsanjani signed several major accords for bilateral cooperation in trade, economy and defense.

"The breaking of ice in the Irano-Soviet relations is a positive step which will also have an impact on ties of Iran with the West," 'Azizi said.

"Now," he said, "the West is bound to change its attitude towards Iran."

Apparently, he was referring to the hostile attitude against the Islamic Republic of Iran since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Since the visit of Hashemi-Rafsanjani the Western countries especially the United States repeatedly expressed their concern and tried to exert pressure on Kremlin so that Moscow may not come nearer Tehran.

"The West now is forced to change its attitude towards Iran following its renewed relations with the Soviet Union," he said.

'Azizi disclosed that Iran has decided not to attend the 83rd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in London this year.

He said the decision for the absence of Iran from the London session was taken because of the host country's attitude against Islam and the Muslims of the world.

'Azizi who is the secretary general of the Iranian Inter-Parliamentary Union, said "Britain has adopted a negative attitude on the issue of blasphemous "The Satanic Verses" by Indian born British national Salman Rushdie.

The Muslims all over the world protested against the British stance on the issue and demanded that the book which hurt the feelings of over a billion Muslims across the world should be banned.

"Britain," he said, "in the name of freedom of expression undermined the sanctity of Islam."

The West along with Britain tried its best to damage the Islamic Revolution of Iran but in fact it backfired and there was unprecedented unity among the world Muslims, he said.

"And moreover, the doors of Iran were closed down for Britain," he said, adding that British officials for long were trying to maintain their presence in this Islamic country.

Commenting on the post-Hashemi-Rafsanjani Majlis he said, "No doubt the absence of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be a great loss for the legislative body."

"The very characteristics of the personality of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his general popularity used to make various factions of the Majlis satisfied," 'Azizi said.

Editorial Views Hashemi-Rafsanjani Election

NC0708203689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled: "Congratulations to President-Elect Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Text] It is fitting that we congratulate Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his electoral victory for the presidency on Sunday. He will be Iran's fifth president after the Islamic Revolution of 1979. He comes in on a flush of high expectations from the people who have been waiting expectantly for an economic transformation following ths stupendous religious reformation that was ushered in by the Islamic Revolution with Imam Khomeyni at the helm.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, who has now assumed the blessed mantle of leadership of this nation, is expected to confirm Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidential win this Thursday, after which Hashemi-Rafsanjani is expected to assume office fully this month. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will take office with new changes in the constitution which have alrady been approved at the referendum which was held concurrently with last Friday's presidential poll. The changes will give him far more authority and executive power than any president, prime minister or other high official commanded in the Iranian political hierarchy before this.

Nevertheless we would be doing Hashemi-Rafsanjani a disservice if we do not temper with wise moderation a too exaggerated hope in what he can accomplish and by an excessive adulation of him as one of the astutest and most intelligent politicians who knows what is good for the nation. To overreach ourselves in expecting miracles—which of course have their proper place in the scheme of things—would be to hurt him.

Almost certainly Hashemi-Rafsanjani will get down to moving the wheels of the economy which have been stagnant for far too long. That this has been so is due to many factors all too well known—a solidifying of the spiritual foundations of the Islamic Republic, the plots of enemies to destroy the Islamic Revolution and a long drawn out war with the same objective. But we should not let time play against us and the sooner we get down to the work of economic and social planning and put these into effect the better.

But in his plans to revamp the economy Hashemi-Rafsanjani will need the assistance and help of sincere managers who can take the job along for him. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in terms of the new constitutional amendments will have a free hand in choosing his executive team and this can be a tremendous advantage too. Never before in the history of post-revolutionary Iran has there been such an opportunity given as now and the chance must be taken at the flood.

Nothing has been able to stop the Islamic Revolution in its God-destined course and so during this new phase too one can almost be sure that God-willing, with the application of the needed effort and wise guidance of the Islamic leadership, the nation will enter the dawn of a new economic era. Our good wishes are with the new President-Elect Hashemi-Rafsanjani in this time of renewed hope.

Mojahedin Spokesman on President's Policies

LD0808193789 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The People's Mojahedin, the opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are not under many illusions. According to their spokesman in Paris, (Behzad Naziri), Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khomeyni are two of a kind:

[Begin (Nazari) recording in French] Hashemi-Rafsanjani represents a continuity of Khomeyni as far as repression and the export of terrorism are concerned. If there have been nearly 1 million deaths on the war front and thousands of political prisoners massacred, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was a high-placed official with responsibility in all that. Above all, in the majority of the terrorist operations carried out by the regime outside Iran, particularly the hostage-takings, Hashemi-Rafsanjani had a direct role through the intermediary of the Pasdaran, which he controlled. [end recording]

The Pasdaran are the Guardians of the Revolution

Mohtashemi Eulogizes Imam Husayn, Khomeyni

LD0808191889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0931 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to a speech delivered last night by the honorable interior minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi, at the graveside of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, about the historic movements of His Great Holiness Aba 'Abdallah al-Husayn [the third Shiite imam].

[Begin Mohtashemi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] [passage indistinct] We are at this blessed place [Khomeyni's gravesite] during the first 10 days of Muharram with the memory of the resolve and will of the imam in all the difficult stages of the revolution. All the devotees, friends, and children of the imam gather around this splendid garden and benefit from the blessed maktab [Islamic teaching or ideology] of Husayn and of Muharram and 'Ashura [month and day, respectively, of

Husayn's martyrdom at the hands of Yazid]. In the narrative of that age it is said: Husayn is the light of God, the guiding light, the vessel of salvation, the lifeboat. Anyone who joins that boat, enters it, will be saved, and those who turn their backs on that lifeboat and become separated from it will, naturally, be drowned in storms, in terrifying oceans and seas; they will die. What characteristic did Husayn have which made him the candle and shining light of guidance? What quality made him the vessel of salvation? Does his special characteristic arise from the fact that he is one of God's guardians and imams? Is it the fact that he was a leader who invited people to turn to God? Is it the fact that he told people to pray, to adopt piety, or is it something else? Is the meaning and intention something other than that? Because those characteristics existed in all the prophets, guardians, and the immaculate imams, may God's peace and blessings be upon them all. They all invited people to turn to God. All of God's prophets, guardians, and immaculate imams invited people to turn to justice, to divine shari'a. They all invite people to perform duties and to abstain from the forbidden; they all sincerely and faithfully worshipped God.

The characteristic which sets Imam Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, above others is the issue of Karbala' [place of Husayn's martyrdom] and 'Ashura and the maktab, which imam Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, founded. The architect and engineer of Karbala' and 'Ashura and the movement it established in the history of Islam is Husayn. That maktab and that method, that Husayni tradition is what has been described as the shining light and as the vessel of salvation in the history of Islam. Karbala' and 'Ashura and the Husayni movement have one face, which is the apparent one and only face, the real and true one, or the spiritual one. The real and true face of the Karbala' incident is something else. It has opened another reality and a bright horizon before the eyes of humanity throughout history.

The issue is not the issue of Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, such that everything came to an end with his martyrdom. It is a historical battle and a struggle between justice and injustice, which has existed throughout the history of humanity. However, 1,400 years ago, in the year 61 of the Hejira calender, justice and injustice were manifested in the existence of Husayn and Yazid. Those two camps confronted one another in a very clear and obvious way. What does justice want? What does injustice seek? Justice wants humanity and divine tradition to rule mankind. What it wants is no oppression, no cruelty, no self-centeredness; oppressors' colonialism, tyranny, and hegemony should not dominate oppressed and deprived people; and divine shari'a should rule. But injustice, which has been crystallized in the sinister existence of Yazid, is opposed to all those things and those bright human and Islamic values.

Injustice wants to enslave all the deprived and oppressed throughout history. Injustice has a spirit of arrogance, tyranny, and self-centeredness. Injustice wants everything for itself and it wants to destroy the camp of justice. Thus, when we look at the discussions of Imam Husayn and his allies, followers, and advisers, we find that precisely what happened to Husayn and his advisers is applicable to all principles, to all the centuries and generations of history, and to all the people who have lived and do live.

In the talks between Imam Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, and Ibn-'Abbas [one of Husayn's apostles] or with Muhammad Hanafiyah, Imam Husayn's brother, we find the reflection of a historical reality. Imam Husayn's brother Muhammad says: My brother, it is clear that Yazid will inflict martyrdom on you and your followers in an unequal battle. Well, first, let us not enter such a conflict. Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, graciously said: My grandfather, the prophet of God [Muhammad], may God's peace be upon him and his scion, said: Verily, whatever God wills will happen. Well then, do not take your wife and child with you. Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, gives the convincing reply: God wishes that Husayn's family be captured. Muhammad then says: Brother, go to Mecca, or go to Yemen and there you will find the Shi'as following your father 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, and they will help you. Imam Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, gives this reply to his brother: [Koranic verse omitted] Wherever on this earth, to whatever corner of the earth I go, it is the enemy's nature to seek me out and kill me. That is the nature of injustice; it is the nature of arrogance.

Yazid and those who are in the camp of injustice can in no way bear to see the continued existence of justice because the existence of light destroys and removes darkness; the existence of justice leads to the destruction of injustice. The very continued existence and manifestation of justice collides with the existence of injustice. The survival and continued existence of the Islamic revolution of Iran leads to the destruction of global arrogance and the camp of blasphemy. The existence of Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, will lead to the gathering of the supporters of justice around him, to the strengthening and expansion of that camp, to a daily increasing number of followers and supporters. The greater the extent of justice and the expansion of the camp, the less space there will be on earth for injustice. The light of justice will bring about the destruction of injustice. [Koranic verse]

That is the nature of justice and injustice. Injustice cannot tolerate the existence of justice; that is how it has been throughout history. Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, tore away the drape hiding that fact, saying: Brother, you think that if Husayn adopts silence, then Yazid will leave him alone. Until Yazid and the camp of arrogance put nations and noble people in chains and enslave them; until they have subjected all their interests to their own evil aims; until they have crushed them underfoot, they will not stop. [Koranic verse omitted]

That is the logic of arrogance, the logic of blasphemy, and that is the logic of the leaders of colonialism and arrogance throughout the world and throughout history.

It is in the nature of arrogance, of Taqut [an idol in Mecca, derogatory reference to the shah] and of cruel people, of the pharoahs of history, of the superpowers that they must bring all nations under their hegemony; make them dependent; put them in chains. It is in their impure nature. Therefore, if Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, adopts silence, the camp of blasphemy and the camp of injustice will not leave him alone, unless Husayn succumbs to its hegemony, unless Husayn is chained in the slavery of Yazid. It is obvious arrogance and injustice may then be satisfied; otherwise, injustice will not be satisfied with the mere silence of justice. Imam Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, said to his brother and also in a similar sentence to Ibn 'Abbas: Wherever I go on this earth to live and hide, Yazid will not leave me alone, unless he finds me and kills me. That is the nature of Yazid and of Yazidis. What does Yazid want? He wants enslavement.

What does Husayn want? Husayn invites people and generations to freedom and to free-thinking. One of the achievements of Karbala' and 'Ashura and the maktab of Husayn, may God's peace be upon him, is the negation of the hegemony of arrogance and the evil of Yazid and other Yazids of history. Husayn taught all generations, women, men, the old and the young. He taught them how to stand against the satans of their era, the tyrants. See how they stood against tyrants to utter the truth courageously. They fear nothing, they are not afraid of anything. The followers of Husayn throughout history, and the believers in every generation, had no fear in their iron hearts.

A person who utters the word "God" with faith and says "God is my creator and He is the one I worship" is freed from the clutches of every kind of slavery. Such a person reaches true freedom. This is a free person who will not bow to any power and is not at all frightened of satanic forces. Such a person becomes the manifestation of divine power, next to which all other powers seem feeble. Such a person becomes the imam of the ummah, that great spirit of God, who negated the United States and all other superpowers, and all global powers bowed before him in their weakness and feebleness, and conceded defeat. That which is in the heart, spirit, thought, and intellect of this spirit of God, this great imam—an imam who endowed honor and greatness to humanity, who gave glory and greatness as well as strength to all deprived and oppressed—that which is in the thoughts of this imam is God, and nothing but God is manifest and present in the narrative of his sacred existence.

Thus, all powers are very small in the face of the imam—and they are humble. He always attacked with such intensity and he always adopted an offensive posture [halat-e hujumi] toward global arrogance and its head, the United States—the United States, from which all devilish powers in the world... [changes thought] Besides, this United States itself was but a particle in the face of the great spirit of the imam, a moth which creeps to seek refuge in a dark corner away from the shining sun.

Yes, the holy Husayn—may God's peace be upon him—teaches such lessons to all—the lesson of freedom. He teaches even the enemy the lessons of freedom and broadmindedness [azadegi]. He does not merely teach his friends this lesson; he does not merely nurture and strengthen the moral of the faithful and Shiites and Muslims during the length of history. The holy Husayn—may God's peace be upon him—on the day of 'Ashura addressed the enemy in (?the house of) Abu Sufiyan. [Koranic verse omitted] He addresses the enemy, the front of blasphemy, and invited them to freedom as well, to break the chains of slavery and captivity. He invited them to the school of thought of freedom and freedom-mindedness. He is addressing injustice, the harbinger of slavery and captivity.

Today, we are in a very sensitive phase of human history. Throughout the history of divine religions we do not have a time in which the right has appeared and gained power in the world such as now, making the front of wrong-doers tremble with fear. [crowd chants support]

Today, thanks to grace and blessing and the prophetic leadership of our late imam, thanks to the movement and uprising of a faithful nation—which stood firm like a strong mountain and did not tremble in the face of events, remained steadfast, rose and fought against all the enemies to create such a mighty revolution in the world—thanks to their efforts, the front of justice is known in the world arena today with an ever-increasing power. It is a power which has won the hearts of all the freedom-loving people. It has drawn the attention of nations in the Islamic world and in the heart of the front of blasphemy [as heard]. Everything today falls under the spiritual power and influence of Islam. It was under such circumstances that the leader of our glorious Islamic revolution left our midst with divine wish and will. This was a problem that God wished to create for the people. All our hearts were broken, our souls tired. However, God never deprives the believers from his mercy and succor.

This nation and this revolution were bestowed with divine favor. All groups, all factions, all the people, the rural and urban people, our tribal people all mourned the imam. All these hearts became closer to one another, and another single front was formed again. We again witnessed the same glorious scenes of the revolution victory; some kind of unity, cohesiveness, and solidarity was created among all the strata. This is a divine favor.

Praise be to God, on the very first day after his holiness the imam's death, the historical decision was made for the country and the Islamic revolution in Iran and on the world stage on the blessed position of leadership. Then came the splendid elections on 28 July and the election of the president. All the pillars and bases of our system were shaped once again after the demise of the imam—may his dust be sanctified—disappointing the world.

The world today is facing a tangible reality, a revolution, a consolidated front, a decisive nation, a firm leadership, a solid-steel Islamic system with the heritage of the vast experience of 10 years of revolution. It carries with it and before it the experience of the imam. That is a great asset. It is natural that world blasphemy, in the same way that it confronted Imam Husayn in that era, today seeks to confront the truth. The Muslim nations are the sacrificing ones, following the school of Husayn, as they have been nourished in that school. They have heard the soothing voice of Husayn—peace be upon him—on 'Ashura. This is the religion of Muhammad. [passage indistinct]

For the world of Islam, the maktab of Islam is a shining maktab, which emits light. To the Muslim nations, the Koran and Islam have the highest value. All sincere people of history sacrifice themselves for the principles, standards, and lofty aspirations of Islam and the Koran; they follow Husayn's path.

Should the task of defending the Koran and the sanctities of Islam require blood, and should this task require [sacrifice of] life, it is natural that the sons of Husayn, the children of Ruhollah and the imam of the ummah are numerous in this world. The Hezbollah and basij nuclei, which have been brought into existence by that sacred breath of Imam Khomeyni, bring news of the demise of the superpowers and global arrogance. This is the same voice that Husayn—peace be upon him—raised on 'Ashura, saying that if the religion of my grandfather the esteemed prophet will not find a place in the world except through my martyrdom, blood and life.

This is the Husayn who is in front of us, as a light. It is blazing to show us the way. Indeed, Husayn is the key of guidance and the means of salvation. Peace be upon you, O Aba 'Abdallah. Peace be upon you, the grandson of the prophet of God, the son of the emir of the believers, the son of Fatimah and the great ancestor of the imam of the ummah.

We seek assistance from the imam's lofty soul. Send our hearts to Karbala'. We talk in memory of Husayn, in your memory. This mourning ceremony will not give enough time to discuss other spiritual matters. On the day of 'Ashura, as I said, Imam Husayn—peace be upon him—had set up his tents on low ground. Why? He knew his children, his sisters, and female members of his family could not bear to watch those scenes of self-sacrifice, those crimes that the Umayyid dynasty were committing. However, on the day of 'Ashura when Husayn raised his cry saying "Is there anyone to assist me?" Zeynab [imam Husayn's sister] rushed to the top of a hill, later named Zeynabiyah. She looked toward the battlefield and saw Husayn surrounded by a sea of enemies, all of them attacking him with arrows and spears. Husayn had put his face down on the soil and was praying, talking to God. She turned to Ibn-Sa'd [the commander of the army fighting against Husayn saying: "O, Ibn-Sa'd! This is the grandson of the prophet that your are watching." Then she turned her face toward Al-Madinah [where the Prophet Muhammad is buried], crying "O my grandfather, O you apostle of God, this is your Husayn being martyred. This is the innocent Husayn, your grandson who is rolling in blood." May God's curse be upon the infidels. [end recording]

Musavi Inaugurates Modernized IRNA

LD0308013789 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Gone are the days of the pen and paper and the noisy mechanical telex machine—the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY has leaped into the 21st century.

A newsroom equiped with the latest information technology was inaugurated Wednesday, set to turn the 54-year-old agency into a powerful domestic and regional news organization.

It will consolidate IRNA's position as the chief supplier of news and information to the state radio and television organization, domestic newspapers and businesses and improve its foreign language service.

"By using computers we can now compete with some news organizations which we weren't able to before," said IRNA director general since 1980, Dr Kamal Kharazi. "IRNA wants to demonstrate its ability in becoming a major and respected regional news agency," he added.

The dlrs 7.3 million newsroom, smartly set on the 7th floor at the top of IRNA's headquarters, overlooks the capital almost from the center.

The 800-square meter open-spaced center with white and wood colored desks has been divided into 12 news sections employing some 70 reporters who will cover domestic and foreign events in Farsi, English and Arabic.

Each section has up to 11 tri-lingual news terminals (expandable to 16) as well as an information terminal. Terminals will be linked to 24 IRNA offices inside the country (from a total of 31) and 21 abroad (total 24).

Computers compatible with the news system will be installed at IRNA branches aborad in the coming months.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi inaugurated the first phase of the project in a ceremony Wednesday. The second phase is to become operational by the end of the year (March 1990).

"We must use the same means our enemies use against us to defend our cultural and national identity, or else we will be left behind," Musavi said in a speech to IRNA personnel.

He said the media could be used as "the best legitimate tool" to export the Islamic revolution instead through military conquests.

Plans to modernize the agency were first drawn in 1982 and two years later the host, or mother computers were installed under the direction of IRNA's technical manager engineer Manuchehr Eskandari.

In 1987 a decision was made on which terminals to buy after numerous trips to inspect some two dozen systems in Japan and Western Europe. IRNA chose a system similar to that employed by the West German news agency, DEUTCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR (DPA).

The whole project has so far cost dlrs [dollars] 2.6 million in foreign exchange plus rials 338 million (dlrs 4.7 mn) in domestic currency.

Computer interfaces and some micro-computer parts were designed and manufactured by IRNA experts as well as the entire software programs.

Alongside the new technology, IRNA has also taken steps to improve the professional skills of its reporters. "It is in the nature of technology that it will raise professional standards. Our reporters are nevertheless being given additional training on reporting skills," Dr Kharazi said.

The computerized data base on the sixth floor, which was also opened officially Wednesday, will eventually feed basic background information to the newsroom.

In addition to computerized information, it will be equipped with a news and newspaper microfilm archives that would give service to IRNA reporters as well as reserachers from outside.

IRNA is modernizing is photo bank which now contains more than a million negatives, of which 230,000 are from the war fronts.

IRNA Joins NAM, OANA News Agency Pools

LD1205171289

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRNA in English at 1607 GMT on 12 May transmits the following message to subscribers:

"Attention all subscribers:

"The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) in line with the policies and need of:
"—Improving the quality as well as quantity of its daily news reports,
"—Diversity of sources and broader coverage of the current regional, continental and international news events,
"—Giving the subscribers an opportunity to have direct access to the news and information dessiminated by other national news agencies in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, about the news events of their countries—through their own points of view,

"Will take the initiative from Saturday May 13, 1989 (corresponding with 23 Ordibehesht, 1368 H [Al-Hegira calendar]) to incorporate selected news items of the news agencies pool of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) member countries and the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) in its daily English news service.

"The news agencies pool of the NAM member countries which briefly shall be referred to as 'POOL' in the due news reports is a multilateral news exchange arrangement consisting of all the news agencies of NAM members located in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

"The Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) comprises 2 news agencies from 21 Asian countries dispersed in a geographical location from Far and Southeast Asia to Turkey.

"Any comment concerning this new initiative of IRNA on behalf of the subscribers is most welcome.

"However, IRNA shall not be held responsible for the contents of the received news items from the 'POOL' and 'OANA'"

Results of Anti-Drug Campaign Summarized

LD0808122489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Three thousand narcotics addicts who were arested between 23 July and 22 August have succeeded in giving up their habit. According to a Central News Unit report, the acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee described the results of the new antinarcotics campaign as positive in an all media interview with foreign and local reporters this morning. He added that in the course of the last 6 months, more than 53 international networks and rings of narcotics traffickers in Iran have been destroyed and 6,668 of the smugglers have been arrested. In connection with this, over 10 tons of various types of narcotics as well as 81 weapons have been confiscated and recorded.

The acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee said that in accordance with the new law defining addiction as an offence, 14,426 of the addicts have been arrested and dispatched to labor camps. Out of this number, 3,000 have taken steps to give up their addiction. In connection with the adverse propoganda of some mass media affiliated to global arrogance regarding the execution of narcotics smugglers, he said that up to now, not one smuggler has been executed without a file recording his case and a trial and all the sentences issued regarding smugglers have been in accordance with the laws.

Emphasizing the around-the-clock activities of the brothers in the committee for combating narcotics, Mr Kalantari said in conclusion that all passes and routes used by the traffickers on the borders have been closed by the brothers on the committee to prevent narcotics from entering the country and the routes are under control.

Correction to Factions Differ on Cabinet

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Factions Differ on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cabinet," published in the 4 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 53 and 54:

paragraph two, only sentence, page 53: ...on the appointment of Musavi as the first deputy... (changing name "Musavi-Ardabili" to "Musavi")

paragraph one, only sentence, page 54: ...On the other hand, Mir Hoseyn Musavi would like the elimination... (changing name "Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Ardabili" to Mir Hoseyn Musavi)

Pakistan

Two Wounded in Peshawar Bomb Blast 8 Aug

BK0808153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A low-intensity bomb exploded at a hotel in Peshawar this morning [8 August] wounding two people who have been admitted to a hospital.

Bhutto Sees Bombings as Effort at Destabilization

BK0908013489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2049 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 8 (AFP)—One person was killed and another injured when a Soviet-made bomb exploded in a bathroom of a small hotel here Tuesday [8 August], hospital sources said.

The explosion injured two people and caused slight damage to the building, police said. One of the injured later died in hospital from his wounds.

On Sunday, a series of bomb blasts here and in Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, claimed five lives and injured 68.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has described Sunday's bomb attacks as cowardly attempts by "the enemies of the democracy to destabilize the elected government." No one has yet to claim responsibility for any of the blasts.

Order Bans Demonstrations, Meetings in Islamabad

BK0808155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A press note issued by the deputy commissioner of Islamabad has drawn the people's attention to the [prohibitory order under] Section 144 which currently prohibits carrying arms, staging any type of demonstration, and holding public meetings in the capital. Although it is totally lawful to organize religious gatherings, any speeches of a political nature made at such gatherings will render them unlawful. The people have been warned that any violation of the law will not be allowed.

Oil Discovered Near Hyderabad in Sind Province

BK0808113689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Oil has been discovered at (Pasahki) near Hyderabad [in Sind Province]. Its production is about 2,600 barrels per day. This is the second discovery since last month. The first one was at Bhangali in Rawalpindi District.

The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr Jahangir Badar, told a news conference in Islamabad today that as a result of (Pasahki) discovery, the total oil production in the country would increase to about 58,000 barrels a day. In reply to a question, the minister said the country's total requirements were 125,000 barrels a day, out of which 70,000 barrels of crude oil is being imported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Abu Dhabi.

The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has felicitated the Oil and Gas Development Corporation on the discovery of oil at (Pasahki). She said the corporation has the potential to make a significant contribution to the economy of the country and hoped the continued dedication of the staff would make Pakistan self-sufficient in oil.

Authorities Seize 15 Kilos of Fine-Grade Heroin

BK0908015689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2035 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 8 (AFP)—Pakistani drug authorities Tuesday [8 August] seized 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of fine grade heroin but were in a stupor over what to do because the two drug smugglers were both dumb.

The recently activated Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) said the heroin was being smuggled in a small van from the semi-autonomous northwestern tribal areas bordering Afghanistan to Peshawar.

The vehicle was intercepted on the outskirts of Peshawar and 15 kilograms of fine quality heroin worth millions of dollars was recovered, the PNCB said.

It said two occupants were arrested, but police later learned that "both are dumb." "We don't know what to do. They can't speak," a police official said. He could not say if the traffickers were pretending.

In another haul, police arrested two more people from Aza Khel, a suburban village of Peshawar inhabited by Afghan refugees. They were carrying five kilograms (11 pounds) of heroin, police said.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne: India Ready To Withdraw by Feb 1990

BK0808152089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 8 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 8 (AFP)—India has said it is ready to withdraw its estimated 44,000 troops from Sri Lanka by February next year on the basis of three shiploads a week, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Tuesday.

But India wants the phased withdrawal linked with the safety and security of Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority living mostly in the north and east, Mr. Wijeratne told Parliament here.

It is the first time that India, which deployed troops in north-eastern Sri Lanka under a 1987 bilateral accord which sought to end Tamil separatism, has given a time-frame for pulling out its soldiers.

An 11-page statement read by Mr. Wijeratne in the house said New Delhi had turned down Colombo's demand for a total withdrawal by the middle of September.

Mr. Wijeratne, who returned here Saturday from talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi, said Colombo wanted any Indian soldier who remained beyond September due to logistic constraints, to be declared "non-operational."

India has said a total withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) was expected to take 28 to 30 weeks, ending in February, he said.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a bitter critic of the accord signed by his precedessor Junius Jayewardene and Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, has said that he wants all Indian soldiers out by November.

He has also warned that Colombo would not host a South Asian heads of state summit due in November if the IPKF was not withdrawn by then.

Mr. Wijeratne's statement came as India prepared to take back 700 more of its soldiers from the eastern port of Trincomalee, taking to 2,195 the number of troops pulled out since July 29.

Some 620 soldiers sailed for India July 29, the second anniversary of the signing of the peace accord, and 875 paramilitary troops left late Sunday.

Mr. Wijeratne's statement, to be debated in Parliament this week, also suggested the two countries had differences on two other key issues.

Mr. Premadasa, who conferred with Mr. Wijeratne following his return from New Delhi, has said he would take into account the opinions of his Cabinet and MP's [members of Parliament] before making a decision on the Indian proposals.

Mr. Wijeratne said his week-long discussions with Indian leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, from July 29 were held in "a friendly and cordial atmosphere."

But his statement indicated that New Delhi had not agreed to demands for an immediate and unqualified ceasefire by the IPKF and the composition of a joint team to ensure the safety of Tamils during the Indian withdrawal.

Indian troops have been seeking to disarm the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since October 1987, after the Tamil separatist group rejected the 1987 accord and refused to lay down arms.

More than 1,000 Indian soldiers and thousands of suspected guerrillas and civilians have died in fighting since then. The LTTE has announced a ceasefire with Colombo following peace talks which began in April.

India reportedly told the Sri Lankan delegation it would halt its operations against the LTTE for 15 days, which would be extended if the group joined the democratic mainstream. No dates were given.

The Sri Lankan delegation told India the question of ensuring the safety and security of Tamils in the north-east was "entirely a matter for the Sri Lanka Government." But Colombo said it would set up a joint committee to review and coordinate security arrangements in the region, which is administered by a pro-India Tamil party, during the IPKF withdrawal.

It wanted the committee to comprise Indian and Sri Lankan police and Army brass and the governor of the North-eastern Province, an appointee of Mr. Premadasa. India wants the governor replaced by the area's chief minister.

North-eastern chief minister Annamalai Varadarajaperumal, a leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), is in New Delhi holding talks with Indian officials. The EPRLF opposes a hasty Indian withdrawal.

Tamil sources said he was expected to return later Tuesday or Wednesday.

The LTTE opposes the EPRLF and the North-eastern provincial government it controls and there have been fears that the militarily stronger LTTE might go on a rampage if and when the Indians leave the north-east.

Mr. Premadasa unilaterally called on June 1 for a total IPKF withdrawal by July 29. India declined and halted a phased withdrawal begun in January.

Relations worsened but New Delhi agreed to resume the withdrawal after intense diplomatic parleys between the two countries.

Parliament Briefed on Timetable

BK0808153389 Colombo International Service in English 1500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and state minister of defense, Ranjan Wijeratane, made a detailed statement on the talks in New Delhi last week when Parliament met this morning. Mr Wijeratane gave an account of the discussions held on the withdrawal of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the ideas expressed by representatives of both India and Sri Lanka, and placed before the house the stand taken by the respective delegations at the conclusion of the talks.

The Sri Lankan delegation had expressed the view that the remainder of the Indian Peacekeeping Force should be recalled by the middle of September. The delegation maintained that if part of the Indian Army had to remain in Sri Lanka due to practical difficulties, they should be confined to barracks. India expressed the view that on the basis of the withdrawal of 1,500 to 1,600 troops in three shifts every week, it would take 28 to 30 weeks, including a 3-week preparatory period for the withdrawal. As such the complete withdrawal would be effected by February next year.

On the cessation of hostilies by the IPKF, Sri Lanka expressed the view that India should respond positively to the offer of the cease-fire by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. India in response agreed that IPKF would cease hostilities for a period of 15 days under specific conditions. This period would be extended once the LTTE starts to actively participate in peace committees in the north and the east.

The Sri Lankan delegation also expressed its view regarding a review of the India-Sri Lanka agreement of July 1987. It maintained that there was no connection between the implementation of the agreement and the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force. The delegations explained the action taken to implement the agreement by setting up a police force at provincial level and the devolution of power to the provincial councils. India accepted the stand of the Sri Lankan delegation in this regard.

Sri Lanka also presented a proposal for the protection of all sections of the community in the north and the east. Sri Lanka would take full responsibility for the security of the north and the east as it was the sole responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government. It was agreed that till the IPKF leaves Sri Lanka, the coordination and review of the security activities would be the responsibility of a committee comprising the Sri Lanka army commander, the inspector general of police [IGP], the chief commanding officer of the IPKF, and the governor of the Northeastern Province. The Indian delegation said that until the withdrawal of the IPKF within the given timeframe, the security of all sections of the community in the Northeastern Province should be subjected to a security survey by a committee set up for advisory and coordination functions. It said that this committee should comprise the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, the Sri Lankan army commander, the IGP, and the chief commanding officer of the IPKF.

Minister Ranjan Wijeratane said that all members of Parliament will be given the opportunity to discuss and express their views on this matter.

Premadasa Warns UNP Members of 'External Forces'

BK0808130289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 8 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa Tuesday asked Sri Lankans to eschew violence and warned that "certain external forces" may try to benefit from the political turmoil gripping his island nation.

Mr. Premadasa told a meeting of MP's [members of Parliament] from the ruling United National Party (UNP), which has been in power since 1977, that "an atmosphere of sorrow, fear and terror has overtaken the country."

He added that "violent attacks and brutal killings" had increased in educational institutions and in towns and villages, and strikes and curfews had become the order of the day.

The president, who took office in January, asked party leaders to jointly appeal to political parties and groups to take steps to help achieve normalcy in the country through "a well considered plan of action".

"The government is always prepared to implement such a plan of action which would restore peace, discipline and prosperity to all the people," he said.

Mr. Premadasa then warned his MP's that "there could be certain external forces which are waiting for an opportunity to benefit from this sad sequence of events." He did not name any country. [passage omitted]

Northeast Chief Threatens Separate Nation

BK0808091589 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 28 Jul 89 p 1

[From the DINAMALAR special correspondent]

[Excerpt] Trincomalee, 28 July: The chief minister of the Tamil province [Northeastern Provincial Council], Varadaraja Perumal, has issued a final warning to the Premadasa government that if the Sri Lankan army attacks the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] tomorrow, [29 July], the Tamil province would immediately be declared a separate nation and that he would proclaim himself as its president.

By tomorrow, the 29th of July, 2 years will have elapsed since the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord. The Sri Lankan president, Premadasa, has set a deadline for the withdrawal of the IPKF from the Tamil province. The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Wijeratne, has threatened that if the IPKF does not withdraw, it would be confined to the barracks.

India has categorically stated that the IPKF would be withdrawn only after the grant of full rights to the Tamil province as per the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

Under these circumstances the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Varadaraja Perumal, gave an interview in Trincomalee yesterday. He said: "If the Sri Lankan army takes up arms against India on 29 July, I will proclaim myself as the president of a separate Eelam. Premadasa will be the president for Sri Lanka only. The Sinhalese army is now indulging in provocative actions. It attacked the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] office in Kilinochchi, killing two persons. It laid a 30 kg landmine in Kantalai to kill IPKF soldiers. When the landmine went off, it created a 7.5 feet wide and 4.5 feet deep crater. Fourteen IPKF soldiers were killed in the incident. I am not able to do anything as the chief minister of the Tamil province. The Tamil province here is just like a municipality in India. The rights have not been granted. Therefore, I have been compelled by the Tamil people and my party members to declare a separate nation. The Sri Lankan Government has decided to bring in some amendment to the constitution to grant rights to the Tamil province. Eighty percent of that amendment should be changed. I will consult the Indian government about it and will submit a new draft amendment to the Sri Lankan Government." [passage omitted]

28 Reported Killed in Continuing Violence

BK0808163089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Fresh incidents of violence in Sri Lanka have claimed 28 lives. Three of them were security personnel. The victims included a woman principal of a school in Kurunegala District. In all, seven bodies with bullet injuries were picked up by the security forces. Four of them were those of suspected rebels.

In another incident in the central Kandy District, security forces shot dead one JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] activist. Two civilians were killed in the same districts by the rebels last night.

A government communique issued in Colombo spoke of other incidents in which 13 civilians and 2 security personnel were killed by JVP extremists. The communique has not given details of these incidents.